SAT SPECIAL / A2-1

New movies boost Filipino films' happiness quotient

WORLD / A22

Israel pounds Lebanon as world urges restraint

NEWS / A2

Magdalo 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan renounces military rebels, admits talks with Reds

SUPER / E1

Exclusives with Johnny Depp, Keira Knightly and Orlando Bloom

Midas touch: Bacteria can turn dust to gold

MASARAP ALAGAAN ANG GANYANG BACTERIA!

SYDNEY—RESEARCHERS in Australia have uncovered evidence that a tiny microbe may have the Midas touch of Greek legend, capable of turning dust to gold.

Findings reported in the July 14 issue of the

MIDAS/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, July 15, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 217 P18 website: www.inq7.net

OFWs' $ remittances jumped by 30% in May

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers surged by 30 percent to $1.14 billion in May, its highest monthly growth level since June last year, in time for the payment of the tuition of their dependents, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

This brought total remittances in the first five

OFWs'/ A6

'Bolante case very rare'

Dipolog bishop says Palace tried 'to buy us'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño

A SENIOR ROMAN CATHOLIC prelate yesterday said he personally experienced an attempt by a Malacañang staff member to buy off bishops on the eve of their meeting last week to discuss the impeachment issue against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"They were trying to bribe the bishops ... *Garapal* (Shameless)," Dipolog Bishop Jose Manguiran told the INQUIRER, recounting an incident when he said the staffer slipped two cash-filled envelopes into his hand at the Pope Piux XII Catholic Center in Manila.

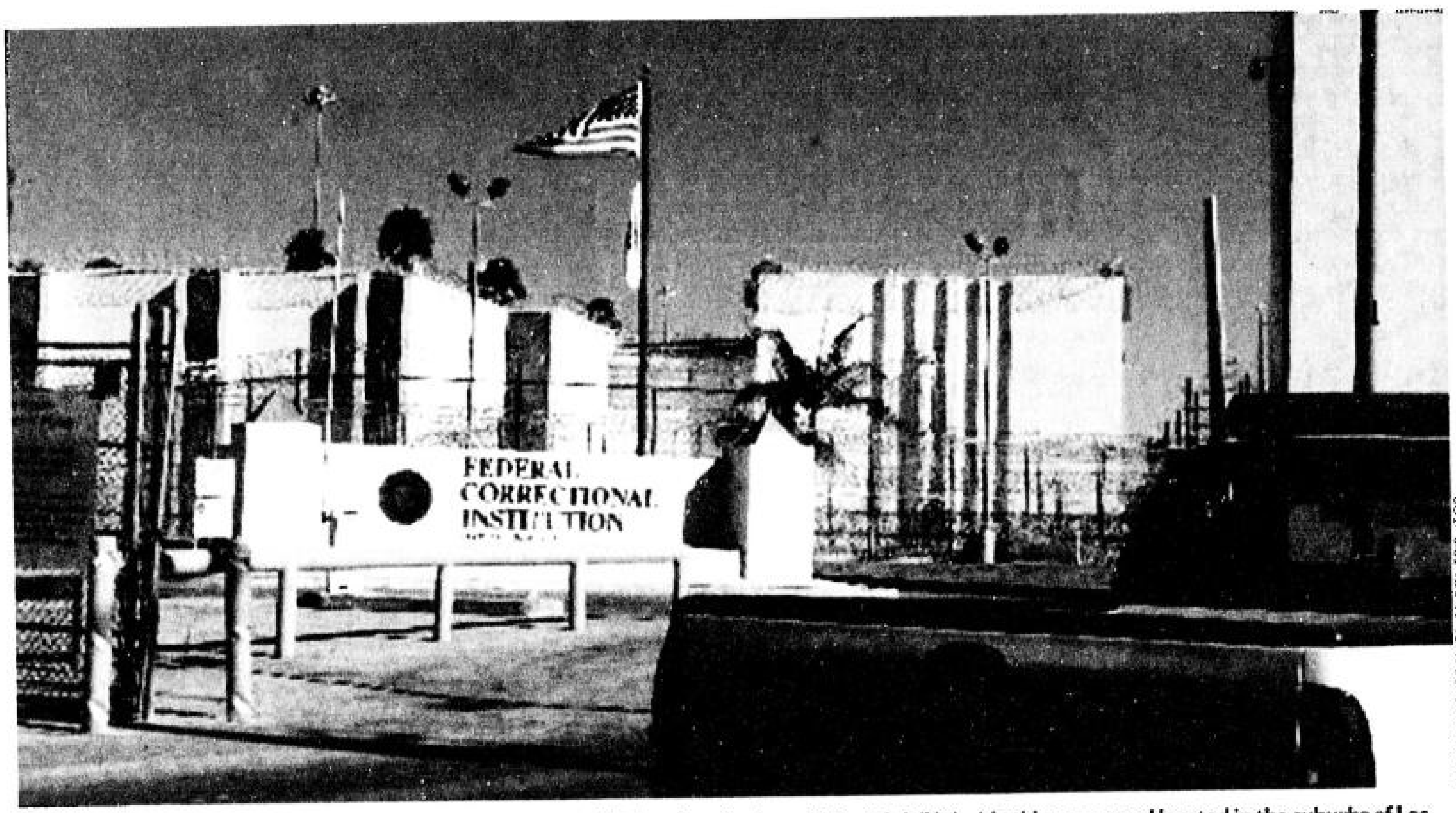
The 69-year-old prelate later intimated to another bishop that the envelopes each contained P15,000 in cash, which Manguiran returned.

Manguiran said the incident occurred on Monday last week before the members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines closeted themselves for a weeklong retreat and meeting, which ended with a pastoral statement withholding support for current moves to impeach Ms Arroyo on charges ranging from corruption to election fraud.

Malacañang denied any bribery attempt had occurred.

CBCP vice president Archbishop Antonio Ledesma said he had also been offered an envelope but this occurred on a separate occasion and he didn't attach much

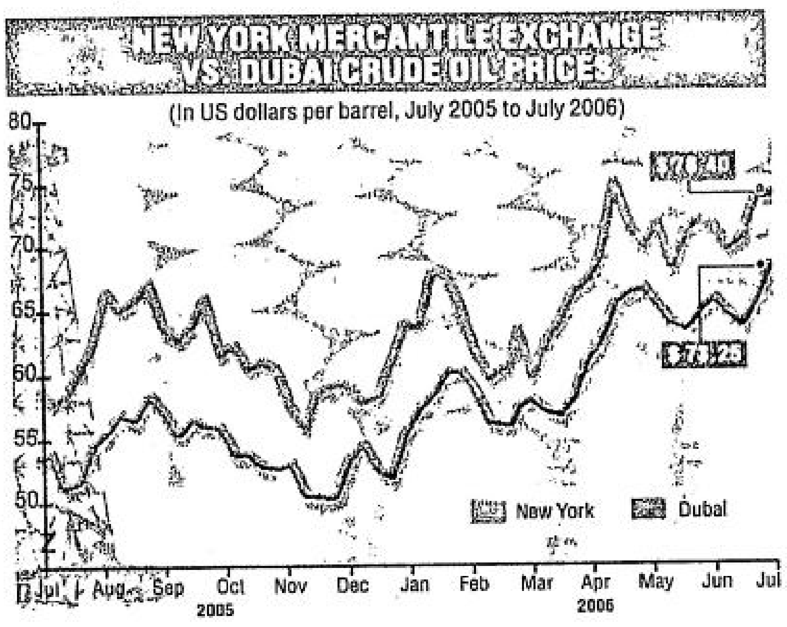
DIPOLOG/ A6



NICK SAGMIT/LOS ANGELES CONTRIBUTOR

USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR FOREIGNERS who have violated US immigration laws, Bolante's jail is inside this compound located in the suburbs of Los Angeles, is heavily guarded and visitors are carefully screened. And they have to observe a dress code: For females, skirts, dresses and slits should not go beyond mid thigh when seated; for males and females, no short/jogging shorts. Bolante himself is required to wear a scrub-like prisoner's uniform.

Oil price nears $80 on Nigeria, Mideast fears



NEW YORK—OIL PRICES SURGED to a record high of over $78 a barrel yesterday on renewed worries over supply from major exporter Nigeria and as conflict between Israel and Lebanon heightened international tensions.

In Manila, however, business leaders generally took the record surge in oil price in stride, with one trader saying it was more or less seasonal and that Filipinos have gotten used to price shocks.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said business operators as well as consumers were already used to the upward trend since prices breached the $30-a-barrel level a few years ago.

"We have experienced this before and most of the price adjustments for commodities have been made. Prices of goods have tripled or quadrupled over the period," Chua said.

Also bolstering prices, the Iran nuclear dispute headed back to the United Nations Security Council, North Korea walked out of talks with South Korea and crude inventories fell more than expected in the United States, the world's top oil consumer.

"Geopolitical tensions have stepped up—we are moving on to a new phase in Iran and Israel," said Mike Wittner of investment

OIL PRICE/ A17

DFA knew of arrest in US from Day One

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—THE Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila apparently knew about the July 7 arrest of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante from Day One but kept it under wraps for almost a week.

Mike Flemming, spokesperson for the US Customs and Border Protection, which detained Bolante upon his arrival at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7, said the ex-agriculture official was stopped as he went through passport control for "secondary inspection."

At that point, Flemming said, It was discovered that Bolante's US visa had been revoked by the US Embassy in Manila. Bolante was detained for questioning and turned over to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, he said.

Flemming said that on the same day, the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles was informed about Bolante's arrest. Asked how the information was relayed, he said: "We sent them a fax, and we also spoke to them on the phone."

One of the top immigration specialists in Los Angeles described the cancellation of Bolante's visa as "a very rare case."

"This is the first time I've heard of such a case in my 30 years in the field of immigration," Carl Shusterman said, adding that it

BOLANTE/ A8

'Nicole's' 'cross' done in 40 minutes

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE EXPECTED FIREWORKS AT the cross-examination of the Filipino complainant in the Subic rape case did not happen.

Days before she took the stand, "Nicole" was warned by her lawyers to "expect no kindness" from the defense. But yesterday, only one of the Filipino lawyers of the four accused US Marines conducted the cross-examination and was done in 40 minutes, provoking none of the tears and angry outbursts that earlier marked her testimony.

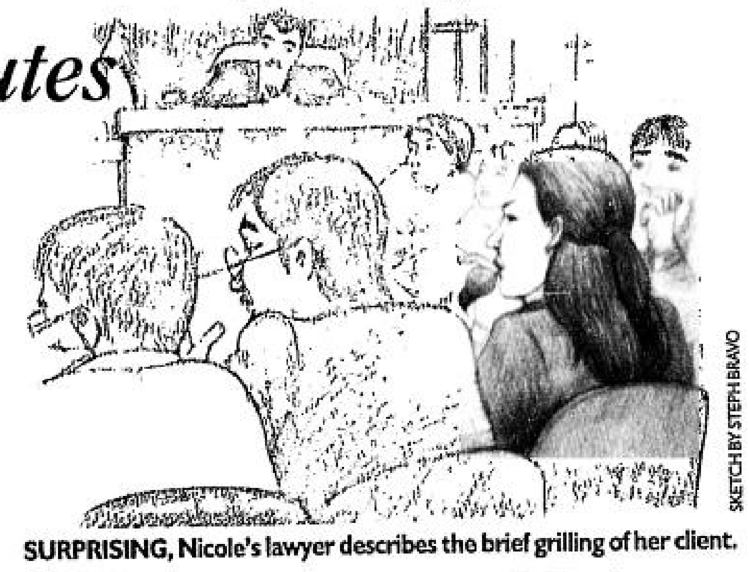
Speaking later with reporters, the lawyers of the three other American soldiers said they chose not to grill Nicole because she did not mention their respective clients anyway during her emotional, three-day direct examination.

Those who adopted the "no-cross" tactic were Francisco Rodrigo, counsel for S/Sgt Chad Carpentier; Jose Justiniano, for Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood; and Enrico Uyehara, for. Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis.

"The most eloquent cross-examination is no cross-examination," Rodrigo said.

Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon adjourned the proceedings at 2:10 p.m.—the shortest hearing yet in the trial.

NICOLE'S/ A17



SKETCH BY STEPH BRAVO

SURPRISING, Nicole's lawyer describes the brief grilling of her client.

US Embassy, DFA mum on Bolante

By Nikko Dizon and Philip C. Tubeza

THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA yesterday neither confirmed nor denied that it was behind the cancellation of Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante's US visa.

Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop told the INQUIRER that he did not know the US Customs and Border Protection official in Los Angeles who said it was the US Embassy in Manila that had revoked the B1/B2 visa. *(See story on this page.)*

"I don't know who Mike Flemming is and I have yet to see your report. But whatever your correspondent has been told by Mr. Flemming, it's a long-standing practice of the US Embassy that we don't comment on individual cases of visa issuances, denials, or cancellations," Lussenhop said in a phone interview.

US EMBASSY/ A8

3 Pinoy kids are world jr. golf champs

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

SUCCESS HAS MANY PARENTS: (At left) Mia with her dad Col. Norman Legaspi; (above left) Cyna Rodriguez with mom Cherry; (above right) Dottie with her dad Ed Ardina. They were all photographed at the scene of their triumph in San Diego, California.

By Jong Arcano
Editor, Inquirer Golf Monthly

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—DOTtie Ardina used her borrowed clubs to perfection, Cyna Rodriguez made one late unforgettable tee shot, and Mia Legaspi showed such brave heart in giving the Philippines an unprecedented three victories in the Callaway Junior World Golf Championships here Thursday.

Ardina showcased the continuing transformation of a super talent with an eight-shot rout of the Class C field, Rodriguez birdied the 17th to win the Class B crown by just a stroke and Legaspi contributed a surprise win of her own in a Class E bracket where she was not given a chance against taller, heftier and older rivals.

And 20 years after the world first came to know about Philippine junior golf with the twin victories of now-professionals Ramon Brobio and Carito Villaroman for two years in 1983 and 1985, the Philippines came off with its most productive campaign ever in the annual event.

With three of the 10 disputed titles so far, the Philippines also stands to become the winningest foreign contingent outside of host United States, which has captured four pending Friday's completion of play in the 15-17 class.

3 PINOY KIDS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience rains with gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. Western Luzon will have occasional rains while the rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with rainshowers

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/14/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Happy, sad stories for 2 Baguio families

BAGUIO CITY—TWO SETS OF parents here were asked to travel to La Union on Thursday night hoping to find their missing daughters alive.

But only the family of Grace Princess Separa was given the good news.

Separa is a grade school pupil of Rizal Elementary School here, who didn't come home after class on Tuesday. Yesterday, she was found alive at Barangay Tiptop, according to reports from the Office of Civil Defense.

It was the body of 7-year-old Gracel Benito of Imelda Village that turned up along the banks of Bauang, La Union, 47 km from here.

Benito had been declared missing when she fell into a creek on Tuesday as typhoon "Florita's" strong rains and wind hit the city.

A third child, 4-year-old Oslos Balbawang Jr., was still missing after a landslide buried his family's house on Tuesday.

Reports yesterday recorded six more fatalities in typhoon-related incidents in Baguio, Ilocos Sur and Zambales. This brought the death toll to 16 in the Northern and Central Luzon.

"Most of the casualties were drowning victims and those buried alive by landslides," said Glenn Rabonza, executive director of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, adding that more than 50,000 people were affected by the storm.

Fifteen people were injured and seven were still missing.

Typhoon Florita left dozens of minor landslides and caused flooding in Luzon," Rabonza said.

Damage to property and agriculture appeared to be minimal after the storm hit the northeastern coast of Luzon on Tuesday but many parts of Ilocos, Cagayan and the Cordillera mountains were isolated by landslides and floods.

The typhoon weakened as it headed towards northern Taiwan with wind speeds up to 100 kph (62 mph).

Rabonza said the toll could rise as weather conditions improve and the disaster agency gets more reports from the field.

Several shops here reopened yesterday, although Mayor Braulio Yaranon allowed public and private offices to operate for only half-a-day while city personnel cleared roads of debris left by the landslides.

The Benguet Electric Cooperative had also restored power to 80 percent of the city.

The city government pegged typhoon-related damage at P200 million, which almost matches the damage recorded during the onslaught of typhoon "Feria" in 2001, according to city administrator Peter Fianza.

Fianza said the city's estimate is more realistic than the P4.5 million damage posted by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Agriculture officials estimated that damage to rice and corn crops would reach about P9 million ($172,000).

At least seven road cuts were reported along 84-km Baguio-Benguet Road while at least three road cuts were reported along the 34-km Kennon Road.

With reports from Vincent Cabreza, Frank Cimatu, Cristina Arzadon, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Tonette Orejas, Cesar Villa, Greg Refraccion and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Reuters and AFP

Rebel officer cuts ties with Magdalo group

A FORMER REBEL ARMY OFFICER facing coup charges yesterday renounced his links with the Magdalo group of military mutineers charged with the failed coup of July 2003 and admitted he held talks with communist guerrillas.

The statement by 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, who was captured in February a month after escaping from military detention, is likely to be used by the military to support its claim that rebel officers and the communist guerrillas tried to form a tactical alliance to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

San Juan said yesterday he met with communist rebels after his escape from detention.

He declined to give details of his talks with a senior regional communist guerrilla commander, who the military identified as Tirso Alcantara.

San Juan was among young captains and lieutenants from elite Army units—calling themselves the Magdalo group—who led about 300 soldiers in briefly occupying the Oakwood Premier Hotel at the Ayala Center mall in the Makati financial district in July 2003.

Describing themselves as reformist officers, they demanded that the President and other officials resign, claiming her government and the military were corrupt. They surrendered 19 hours later and were detained at Fort Bonifacio from where San Juan and three other officers escaped in January.

"I did not expect that the goals I was pursuing will lead to talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army," San Juan said in a news conference called by the Army at Fort Bonifacio.

He said that after much soul-searching and prayers he realized he made a mistake and damaged the 117,000-strong Armed Forces, his family and the nation.

"I am ready to face the punishment for my actions in accordance with legal processes. I would rather willingly admit my mistakes than stand by the wrongs I have committed," he told reporters.

He is facing separate charges of rebellion.

PHILIPPINE ARMY
FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO
SAN JUAN
PHIL. ARMY

ARMY 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan reaffirms his loyalty to the military's chain of command and the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

REM ZAMORA

The military last week arrested six other fugitive officers, three of whom escaped with San Juan in January. Officials said the arrests uncovered a plot to seize the Congress and establish a revolutionary government.

The government has charged 96 officers and soldiers in civilian and military courts on charges related to the 2003 coup attempt.

A civilian fact-finding commission concluded the mutiny was part of a larger plot to seize power and appoint a 15-member junta.

Reading from a prepared statement in Filipino, San Juan said he was "breaking away from the Magdalo and the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino and again pledge allegiance to the Constitution and the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

San Juan's demeanor yesterday was a complete departure from his defiant stance when he was captured last Feb. 21 in Padre Garcia, Batangas, about a month after he and three other Magdalo mutineers escaped.

Yesterday, the six-foot-tall San Juan appeared before the media very much chastised, apologizing to his family, the AFP and the Filipino people.

In a limited question-and-answer session with reporters, San Juan said that shortly before his capture he met with Alcantara, the top communist leader in the Southern Tagalog region.

Officials have claimed that the meeting showed that the Magdalo group had allied itself with the communists.

San Juan yesterday said Jose Christopher Belmonte, the Magdalo lawyer who was with him when he was capture, was at the meeting with Alcantara. Belmonte, who earlier denied meeting with the communist leaders, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

San Juan refused to say what was discussed with the communists. He also did not name the Magdalo's financiers and supporters.

"There has been no discussion yet about me turning state witness so I'm sorry I cannot answer that question," he said.

He said he was neither forced, threatened nor promised a reward in exchange for his turnaround.

Army spokesperon Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said San Juan's turnaround would not affect his cases before military and civilian courts.

"There will be no changes. He will be subjected to the same restrictions," he said.

In a related development, a Philippine National Police official said the PNP would ask the AFP for a copy of the report of the military's inquiry into the Feb. 24 attempted coup.

Police investigators are particularly interested in the role that retired Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, former head of the PNP's Special Action Force, played in the coup attempt, said a PNP official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Franco and three officers of the commando unit were dismissed following reports that the SAF had planned to take hostage then PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao and and force him to withdraw support from the President.

Lomibao had Franco investigated, "conditionally cleared" and allowed to retire, the source said.

The source said the PNP failed to obtain "concrete evidence" to pin down Franco, Sr. Supt. Benjamin Magalong, Chief Inspector Eric Dilag and Inspector Ryan Paloma.

"The case against Franco was never closed," the source said. *AP with Dona Pazzibugan and Luige del Puerto*

Retired generals get 20-day court reprieve from eviction

**By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan**

RETIRED MILITARY AND POLICE GENERALS yesterday heaved a sigh of relief after the Pasig City Regional Trial Court issued a 20-day temporary restraining order, stopping their eviction from a disputed housing compound in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

Pasig City RTC Branch 266 Judge Ramon Pacis ordered all concerned officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to refrain from performing further acts of eviction" within the questioned compound "for a period of 20 days."

The retired generals, who claimed they bought the property for P11.9 million in 1991, had formed the Southside Homeowners Association Incorporated (SHAI) and had brought the case to the court.

In their petition for a TRO, the complainants pointed out that the Pasig City RTC Branch 71 had dismissed in 1997 the complaints the AFP had filed to legally evict them from the compound.

SHAI members also told the court the same decision was upheld by the Court of Appeals in 2003 which recognized SHAI's ownership of the Jusmag Compound, which they said was no longer part of the Fort Bonifacio.

"In view of the foregoing, the Court is convinced that plaintiffs are entitled to the temporary restraining order relief prayed for," Pacis said in his decision.

Yesterday, the families of the retired generals tried to form human barricades at the entrance of the 40-hectare Jusmag Compound to prevent military trucks from hauling their belongings.

A brief scuffle ensued between the residents and soldiers who were in full anti-riot gear. The soldiers later withdrew.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. called off the eviction due to the bad weather but gave the "overstaying" generals and their families until Sunday to move out.

"It's raining (so) we gave them a two-day extension. (Evicting them now) would be against humane eviction," he told reporters.

Esperon said the Army served on Friday eviction notices to 78 retired military and police officials who continued to occupy military quarters inside Jusmag. There are 106 quarters inside Jusmag.

So far only eight have voluntarily moved out, one of them former AFP chief of staff Roy Cimatu.

Others who reportedly promised to voluntarily move out are former military chief of staff Diomedio Villanueva and Benjamin Defensor, former Army chief Gregorio Camiling and former police chief Edgardo Aglipay.

Under military housing regulations, the families of officers who have retired, resigned or died have to leave their quarters within 60 days.

Esperon said all the quarters inside the Jusmag area should be occupied by active officers. He said after five years, the 40-hectare prime property with a market value of at least P12 billion would be turned over to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) for disposition.

The property is being claimed by SHAI. But the BCDA has challenged the SHAI's claim before the Supreme Court, where the case is still pending.

The BCDA claimed that the SHAI's deed of sale and the transfer certificate of title were forged.

Other prominent occupants of Jusmag include former military deputy chief and now defense undersecretary Ernesto Carolina; former Army Southern Luzon Command chief Alfonso Dagudag; former Air Force Tactical Operations Command chief now interior undersecretary Melchor Rosales; former Army chief Guillermo Flores; former Marine commandant Ponciano Millena; former PMA superintendent Rufo de Veyra; and retired Air Force Major General Jaime Ileto.

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MISS UNIVERSE HOPEFULS
Miss Philippines Lia Andrea Ramos joins 85 other contestants for a 2006 Miss Universe pageant photograph in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, Thursday. AP

Court orders Esperon to produce Lim

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Margaux C. Ortiz

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY GRANTed the petition for habeas corpus filed by the wife of detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, a move that could pave the way for his release from a top-security military facility in Tanay, Rizal.

In a resolution, Associate Justice Fernanda Peralta ordered incoming Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to present Lim before the court at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday and explain the reason for his detention.

In her 12-page petition for habeas corpus, Lim's wife Aloysia said her husband was "being unlawfully detained and deprived of his liberty upon the orders of General Esperon."

Lim's wife noted that the detained general was never presented a written authority covering his transfer to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

Lim's lawyer Vicente Verdadero was confident the former Scout Ranger commander who was accused of leading the aborted coup last February would eventually be freed from the maximum-security prison in Camp Capinpin.

"They have no case against him yet they have been detaining him," he told the INQUIRER yesterday in an interview.

Claiming Lim's life was under threat, Esperon earlier this week ordered his transfer from Fort Bonifacio to Camp Capinpin.

Verdadero said Lim's detention violated the Articles of War which stipulates that a person covered by military law could be arrested or confined "only when he is properly charged."

One of Lim's co-accused yesterday denied involvement in the aborted February coup attempt.

Maj. Jason Aquino, former operations chief of a Scout Ranger regiment, which Lim once headed, yesterday appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"We welcome this probe of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) because Major Aquino was finally given a chance to air his side," lawyer Alex Avisado, Aquino's counsel, told reporters.

Aquino, who is also detained at Camp Capinpin in Rizal, arrived at the NBI with his lawyers and wife Marife shortly before 2 p.m.

NBI Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda said he asked Aquino to clarify an affidavit which the latter allegedly issued on Feb. 28.

"But his lawyers requested us to give them until next Thursday to issue an elaboration or explanation of the affidavit," Esmeralda said.

Avisado said they advised Aquino to refrain from signing the affidavit which may have been composed while Aquino "was under duress."

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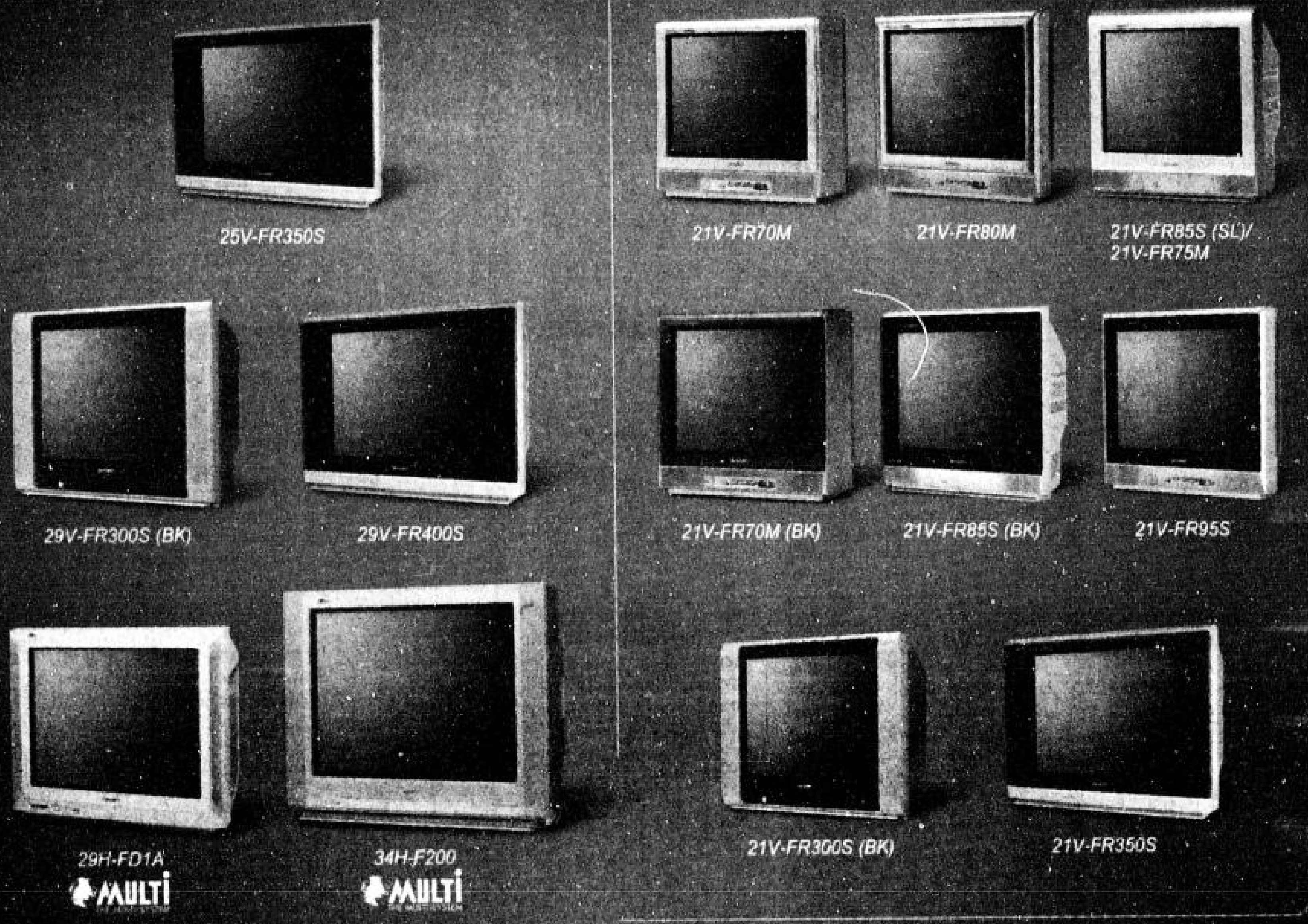

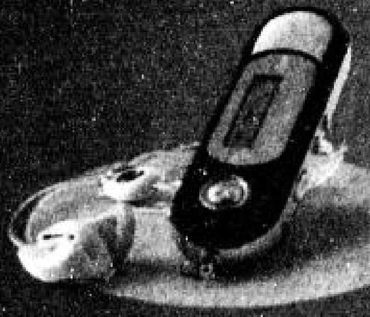

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IMF lauds RP fiscal, debt reforms

A SENIOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND official yesterday lauded the Philippines' efforts to pursue fiscal and debt reforms, saying the measures should set the country on course to achieve sustainable economic growth.

"I am impressed by the significant progress that has been made with economic reforms," Takatoshi Kato, the IMF deputy managing director, said in a statement after a visit to Manila.

He commended Philippine government officials for accelerating the pace of fiscal adjustment, including the landmark value-added tax reform.

"These efforts should help set the country on a higher sustainable growth path," Kato said.

The government last year expanded the value-added tax to cover power and oil products, and three months later, raised the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Higher revenue and controlled spending allowed the Philippines to post a budget surplus in April and May, narrowing the budget deficit to P44.2 billion for the first five months of 2006, from P67.8 billion in the same period last year.

The government also managed to shrink the size of public debt to 71 percent of gross domestic product in March, from 72 percent of GDP at the end of 2005, according to data released last month by the Bureau of Treasury.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday clarified that the government remained committed to balancing its budget by 2008 without sacrificing badly needed spending on infrastructure and social services.

The government was also sticking to its budget deficit target of P63 billion for 2007, Teves said, contradicting media reports that the shortfall goal for next year was widened to P90 billion.

Two senior budget department officials had told Reuters on Thursday the government was open to raising next year's budget deficit target and to pushing back the balanced budget goal to 2010 to allow for more spending.

"The government's policy on reducing the deficit and balancing the budget has not changed," Teves said in a statement.

"We remain committed to the 2007 deficit reduction target of P63 billion and to balancing the budget by end-2008," he said.

"We intend to do this, however, without reducing our spending on infrastructure and social services," he said, adding reforms aimed at raising weak revenues and improving tax administration would help ensure the Philippines met its fiscal goals.

The Philippines, Asia's most active issuer of sovereign debt after Japan, wants to limit its budget deficit to P125 billion this year, or 2.1 percent of GDP.

But a finance official previously said that this year's shortfall was likely to be below target after Congress failed to pass the 2006 national budget, which provided for higher spending.

Last year, the government had a below-target budget shortfall of P146.5 billion, or 2.7 percent of GDP.

The government originally planned to wipe out its budget deficit by 2010 but adjusted the goal to two years earlier after it pursued fiscal reforms, including passage of a law broadening and raising the VAT.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a televised round-table discussion on Wednesday she preferred the 2010 target but that her economic managers wanted the earlier goal of 2008.

Teves said it was important to stick to the fiscal reform program and that the government would not be pressured into delaying the attainment of a zero budget deficit by 2008.

From Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the President was confident the government can achieve a balanced budget in 2008, "very much ahead of target."

"The overall trend of the government is declining, fiscal reform is working and we have growing political stability," said Bunye.

Teves' statement came after proposals were made to push the target of attaining a balanced budget to 2010, the original target under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP).

However, with the impact of recently implemented revenue-raising measures, as well as tight government spending, the country's economic managers decided to take a more aggressive stance by aiming for a zero deficit by 2008.

The government's ability to meet the latest fiscal program helped boost the country's international credit image, with credit-rating firms Fitch and Standard & Poor's giving the country a "stable" outlook. *AP, with Reuters, Michelle Remo and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

10 OUTSTANDING STUDENTS LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

President Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Christopher Joseph Abriam, one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines awardees, in Malacañang Palace Friday. Abriam graduated magna cum laude in BS Political Science from St. Mary's University in Nueva Vizcaya. The nine other awardees are Michael Vincent Uy, Cindy Toh, Phonexiematte Kierulf, Prince Cassidy Villegas, Jerome Dayao, Fritzie Anne Jimenez, Micaella Kwan, Nanette Hope Sumaya and Karina Kelida Centeno.

3 Filipinos hurt in fire on LPG ship in Jordan

THREE FILIPINOS WERE INJURED after their cargo ship carrying liquefied petroleum gas caught fire in the port of Aqaba, Jordan last Thursday.

The three were identified as Preselo Cavite, 32, Cyrus Derayal, 31, and Andres Cabatuando, 37.

They are all confined at the Princess Haya Al-Hussein Hospital in Aqaba.

They suffered burns in their faces but their eyes were not affected, according to Vice Consul Mark Hamoy who visited them at the hospital. Hamoy said the three were among the 13-member all Filipino crew of "Benegas," a Panamanian-flagged cargo ship.

The injured seamen's families have been informed of the accident. They were also assured that consular assistance would be extended, including "their return to the Philippine after their full recovery from the injuries," the DFA said.

An Agence France Presse report from Amman said the vessel, chartered by a Jordanian company, was carrying 4,200 tons of gas, of which 2,144 tons had been transhipped, the official said.

The cause of the blaze, which firemen had brought under control, was not immediately known. *Reports by Nikko Dizon and AFP*

Correction

IN THE JULY 13 ISSUE, JUAN MERCADO'S column on Page A10—"Bullies with diplomas"—misspelled the surname of a professor at the Ateneo de Manila University. The professor's name is Onofre Pagsanghan—not Pagsanjan.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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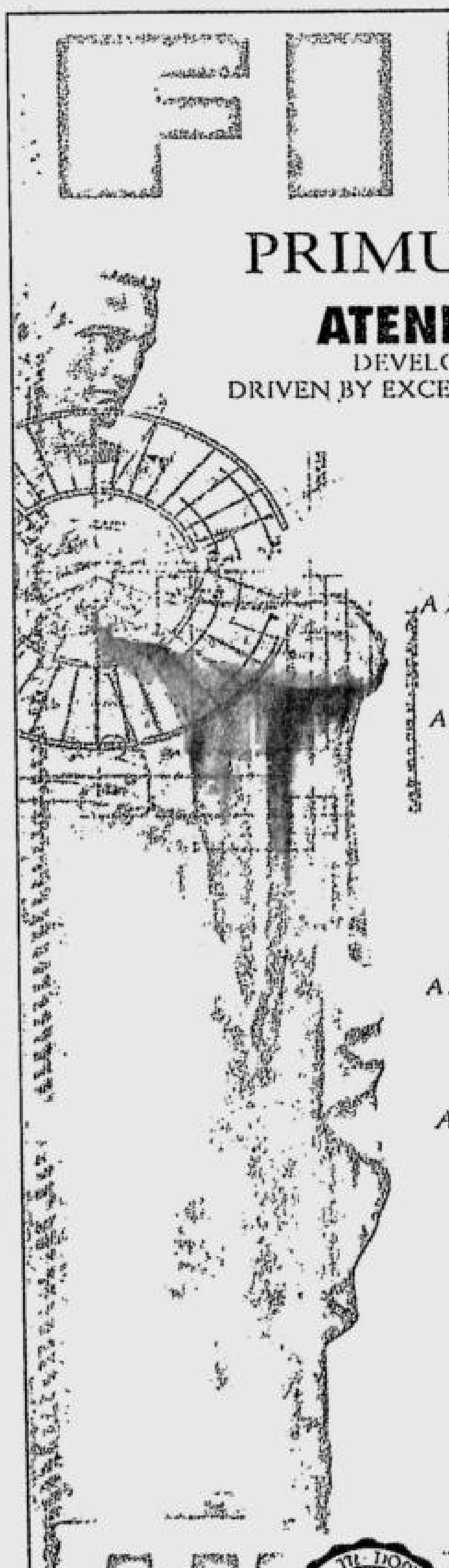

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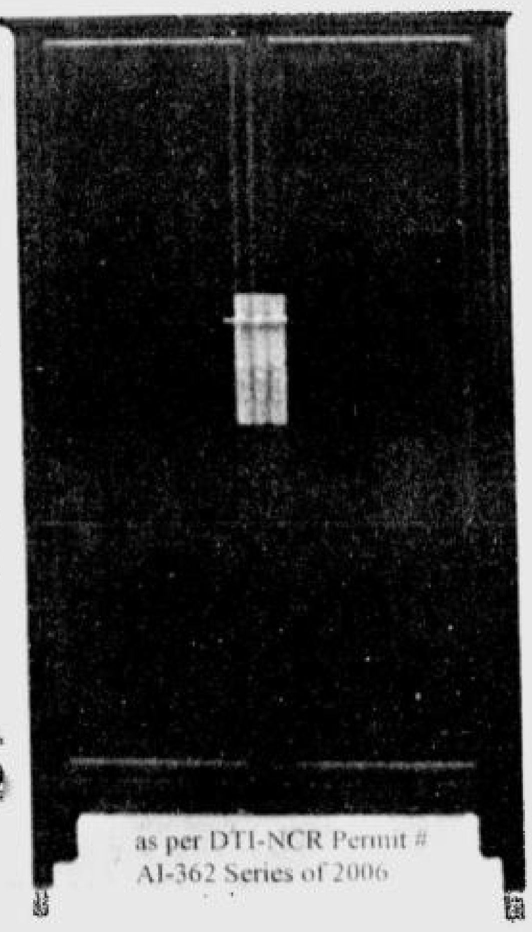

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Let's talk, new DepEd secretary tells protesters

By Michael Lim Ubac

SAYING THE RALLIES WERE "PREMATURE," Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus yesterday sought a dialogue with employees of the Department of Education who are opposing his appointment as education secretary.

"Let's talk," said Lapus, urging the DepEd union to suspend their judgment first.

"I can't understand why they don't want me when they have yet to know me," said Lapus, an economics professor who helped craft the tax reform package of the Arroyo administration amidst the fiscal crisis two years ago.

Nonetheless, Lapus welcomed the protest actions, saying it was all right so long as they don't disrupt the operations at the department.

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles took the cudgels for Lapus and asked DepEd employees and officials not "to arrogate themselves the task of choosing their department chief which is a presidential prerogative.

"To Jesli's critics, I appeal to them to give him a chance to prove that he deserves the DepEd post. Let's be fair to him," said Cerilles.

Cerilles said members of the Cabinet were part of the official family of the President.

"Any individual chosen by President Arroyo to be part of her Cabinet should be given an opportunity to prove his or her worth," said Cerilles, who was a Cabinet secretary during the Estrada administration.

He said the door was open for protesters to leave DepEd.

Cerilles said Lapus' critics were being unfair to him, considering his strong qualifications and credentials.

"He has a wealth of experience and achievement during his stints both at the private sector and government. There is no doubt Jesli can meet the challenges at DepEd given his track record," said Cerilles.

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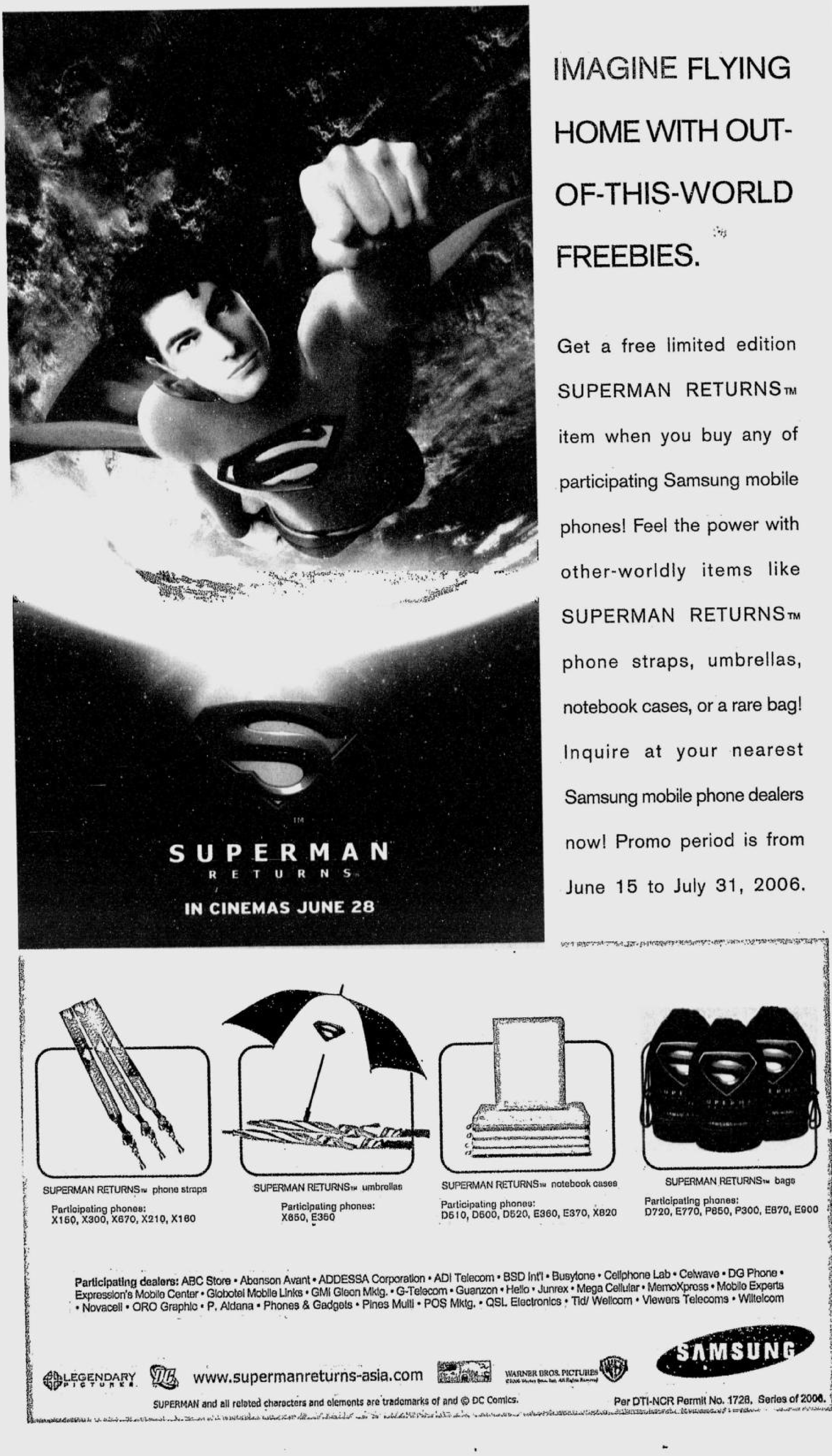

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Dipolog bishop …

From page A1

meaning to it.

"I was offered an envelope apparently containing a reimbursement of my expenses for coming to Manila," he told the INQUIRER. "But I refused because I thought that was the prudent thing to do."

Ledesma said the offer was made to him also on Monday last week during a meeting arranged by Malacañang between the secretaries of education, environment, and health, on one hand, and around 10 prelates from Mindanao, on the other.

Usec for religious affairs

Besides Manguiran, another bishop earlier this week also told the INQUIRER of the distribution of envelopes by Palace people to CBCP participants.

On that Monday, July 3, Manguiran said he was approached at Pope Pius by Fatima Valdes, Malacañang's undersecretary for religious affairs.

He said Valdes was talking about so-called livelihood assistance when a staff member of hers came up behind him and thrust the envelopes into his hand.

"If they could do that to bishops, then they could do that to the common people," the bishop, sounding angry, said.

Letter kept

Manguiran said he promptly asked Fr. Juanito Figura, acting CBCP secretary general, to return to Malacañang the envelopes along with a separate letter explaining why he rejected the offer.

He said he had kept a copy of the letter.

Manguiran said he wasn't buying Valdes' claim that the money was intended for livelihood projects in his diocese.

He said he was surprised that he was being given money when he hadn't even requested for projects, such as those involving purchase of cheap medicines and rice. He said Valdes' pitch focused on parish-based drugstores and rice shops.

Another bishop offered

"I don't accept that kind of money," he said. "We shouldn't be teaching the people to be beggars."

But if Malacañang was indeed sincere about such offers, Manguiran said doles should go directly to projects like hospitals, which needed money more than bishops did. He said the government should also cultivate agricultural lands to help develop self-sustaining livelihood for the people.

A fellow bishop from a poor diocese in the south yesterday said he was also offered an envelop during the plenary gathering's noon break. He said the incident happened either last Friday or Saturday, when bishops were preparing their pastoral statement.

Upon entering the lobby, he said a woman in her "late 40s or early 50s" approached him and handed him an envelope "for poverty alleviation" programs in his diocese.

'It's all a sham'

"I declined right away," he told the INQUIRER, saying the offer also appeared more like an attempt to "soften the bishops' position" on the pastoral issues.

"It's all a sham. What's revolting is that they're doing it to bishops. That's very, very bad."

For his part, Ledesma said offers of cheap rice and medicines in the form of livelihood programs didn't necessary mean an attempt by Malacañang to bribe the bishops.

"I really can't consider them bribes because they are not for the individual interest of the bishops," he said. "They're a way of saying that government projects are available and parishes can qualify for them."

Ledesma said that in the Monday luncheon at the classy Ilustrado restaurant in Intramuros, he and around 10 prelates discussed with three Cabinet members issues like population management, sex education, and mining and the environment.

Among the prelates present were Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga, a staunch critic of the controversial sex education modules, and Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of Marbel, an anti-mining advocate.

"It was a positive dialogue and it's not unusual," Ledesma said. "It's a way for the government to listen to the concerns of the people."

Envelopes appeared

At the end of the meeting, he said staff members who had come with the government officials extended envelopes to the bishops.

He said the envelopes contained "cash for some and plane tickets for others," supposedly reimbursements for their expenses for the Manila trip.

"I didn't bother to open mine," he said. "I felt I didn't have to accept it."

Ledesma said some bishops accepted the offer, explaining that it was Malacañang that had arranged the affair, anyway.

"It should be left to the discretion of the bishops (whether to accept)," he said, noting that this guidance covered similar offers of donations—big or small—from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Malacañang denial

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said all talk of Malacañang dining and bribing the bishops was nothing but intrigues being spread by "forces out to discredit" the administration.

"There was never a Palace-sponsored, Malacañang-hosted dinner for the bishops," he said, referring to an INQUIRER report that the Palace arranged a victory dinner for pro-Arroyo bishops after the CBCP plenary.

Defensor said he spoke with Valdes and she denied that she arranged such dinner or distributed cash envelopes to the bishops.

"There were no envelopes passed," he said.

'No one was bribed'

Defensor also denied an ABS-CBN report quoting Palawan Bishop Pedro Arigo as saying that he received an envelope containing P20,000 in cash after attending a meeting with President Arroyo and her top officials.

"No one from Malacañang is giving money to the bishops," Defensor said.

Told that the bishops were the ones making the allegation, Defensor said: "It is the right of any bishop to say what they say but I don't think it's fair to the other bishops to say *na nasuhulan* (that they were bribed). Definitely, no one was bribed."

Defensor appealed to "forces" he claimed were out to discredit the government to spare the Church from intrigues.

He said these forces wanted to discredit the statement made by the CBCP that it was not inclined to support the new impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

It is for the poor

Defensor also said the Palace does not give aid directly to bishops but to the archdioceses and it is intended for the poor.

Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo admitted he showed up in a "blowout" for Zamboanga Bishop Carmelo Morelos in Makati last week but it was a social event.

Saludo lamented that "certain groups are making remarks that are malicious and impugn the integrity of these holy men to make it appear that they could be swayed with material benefits."

JOAN BONDOC

NEITHER RAINS NOR FLOODS could stop the parents of the three missing UP students from travelling to Hagonoy, Bulacan on Friday after learning that three bodies were found in the area. Concepcion Empano (left), Erlinda Cadapan (3rd from right) and husband Asher (middle).

Batangas raids yield arms cache

By Luige A. del Puerto

SIMULTANEOUS POLICE RAIDS on suspected hideouts of criminal gangs in Batangas province yesterday uncovered a virtual armory with enough equipment to fight a war in Iraq, as one police official put it.

At least 15 people were detained in the raids that targeted four houses in Barangay Banaba and Balagtas in Batangas City, and in the towns of Mabini and Bauan.

"It seems like they're going to Iraq," said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, head of the criminal and investigation division of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, who headed the assault team.

The weapons cache, said to be enough to arm one platoon of the police's elite Special Action Force, allegedly belonged to the "Black Shark Gang" and "Bantogon Group," two criminal gangs operating in Southern Tagalog and considered to be "untouchable" because they enjoyed police protection.

The 15 arrested men included two barangay captains Ronald and Arthur Blanco, police said.

Cops detained

A police source said a local cop was caught attempting to remove an AK 47 and an Ingram recovered from one of the houses, after the raid.

"The cop had already gotten them as far as the gate, but our troops spotted him," said the source.

Another local cop was detained by the CIDG in Mabini town although it was not immediately clear why.

De los Santos said some of the firearms appeared to have been licensed, but they still "exceeded" the normal number of allowable weapons.

A CIDG statement said the raid on the houses of the two Blancos in Banaba East and Balagtas yielded 14 high-powered firearms and seven pistols.

In Mabini, police raided the house of Miguel Leonilo Bantogon Jr. and seized another 14 high-powered weapons.

Searches were still going on in Mauban town.

"These arms can do terrible damage," said SAF chief Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio, showing reporters a rifle grenade seized from the Blancos, which the police said was a type of weapon issued only to the military.

2 criminal gangs

De los Santos said the two gangs have been reported to engage in various illegal activities, such as hijacking, drug trafficking, gun for hire, and protection racket.

Arthur Blanco and Miguel Leonilo Bantogon denied allegations that they were involved in criminal activities.

Bantogon said he was a businessman, not a criminal.

"I have three good companies to engage in that," he said.

His lawyers said he was also engaged in quarrying and construction.

Bantogon said the motive for the raid might be political. He said elections were coming and a relative was planning to run for mayor in Mabini.

Firearms licensed

He did not deny that the firearms were seized inside or near his house, but maintained that the police only got two guns from him, an M14 rifle and a 45mm handgun, both licensed.

Arthur Blanco admitted keeping high-powered firearms but these too were licensed, he said.

He said he and his brother had been receiving death threats, adding that their enemies included the Black Shark gang.

Besides reports that the men were keeping powerful weapons, police also received reports that a suspect in the bombing of Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez was sighted in the area.

The supposed bomber got his training in Mindanao and was an explosives expert, the CIDG report said.

Bishops are dirty-minded—Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum

HE HAS TAKEN ON OPPOSITION leaders, coup plotters, even movie stars. Yesterday, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez trained his guns on the men of the cloth.

Reacting to reports quoting some bishops as saying that Malacañang staffers had distributed cash envelopes to prelates during last week's bishops' meeting in Manila, Gonzalez said: "The people who said that are dirty-minded. They should first inquire about the purpose why such assistance is given. If it is given for a noble purpose, why not?"

Clergy doesn't understand

Gonzalez also told reporters that no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo had told her Cabinet yesterday that she had no knowledge of a supposed victory dinner for bishops which was reportedly arranged by undersecretary for religious affairs Fatima Valdes.

Ms Arroyo "vehemently denied that," Gonzalez said. But he said the President had deemed it proper to no longer fan the issue by answering the accusations of some Church leaders.

According to Gonzalez, what the clergy does not understand is that the President has made it her goal to implement "poverty alleviation" programs through the parishes because it is the only way she could ensure that financial and other aid would reach the intended beneficiaries.

He said Ms Arroyo had grown wary about channeling the money through barangays and through local government units because some officials were susceptible to promoting "self-interests."

Role of parishes

"Look at the calamity funds. In many instances, these do not reach their intended beneficiaries because they are misappropriated by local government officials," he said.

Gonzalez said minutes of Cabinet meetings would show that Ms Arroyo had repeatedly emphasized the need to implement poverty alleviation programs through church parishes and parochial schools.

He said these came in the form of feeding programs and support for efforts by private parochial and parish schools to absorb students who could no longer enter government schools.

Easing classroom shortage

Gonzalez said this was the President's idea of resolving the problem of classroom shortage in public schools.

"So these financial assistance is given for poverty alleviation and to address the problem of classroom shortage. They are not doleouts and they are certainly not bribes," he said.

He asked the clergy to seriously look at this perspective instead of going to the media with stories about Palace people bribing Church leaders.

Bishop finds nothing wrong with envelopes

By Jani Arnaiz
and Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—MALACAÑANG has found an ally in Bishop Precioso Cantillas of Maasin in Southern Leyte. He finds nothing wrong with bishops receiving help from the government.

Cantillas said the offer of Malacañang to help the poor should not be looked at as an attempt to "bribe" the Catholic Church.

"Everybody is trying to help the poor but why is it that when President Arroyo offers her help through the Church, a different meaning is offered by the opposition," Cantillas asked.

"It is better that the money is channeled through the Church or other credible institution than to give it to the politicians, where only half or less than half go to the beneficiaries," Cantillas added.

Implication

Cantillas and other Catholic prelates in the Visayas, led by CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, denied being at the so-called "thank you" dinner hosted by Malacañang for some bishops.

Lagdameo, in a statement, admitted that bishops received envelopes containing money but they "did not have any knowledge of the alleged plan of Malacañang to use these gifts or envelopes for political ends."

Unfair to CBCP

"It was only later that they realized the implication of the offer. Some, we know, returned their envelopes," said Lagdameo.

For his part, Bishop Isabelo Abarquez of Palo said: "As far as I know, there was no party tendered for us bishops during or after our plenary. And as far as I know, no bishops received that P20,000 or P30,000 as reported in the media."

"And if ever there were some, I repeat, some bishops who attended that so-called party or were given money, it's not fair to say that they represent the entire CBCP," Abarquez said. *With reports from Nestor Burgos Jr. Jhunnex Napallacan and Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

OFWs' dollar remittances jumped by 30% in May

From page A1

months of the year to $4.9 billion, up by 14.8 percent from a year earlier. The government expects the full-year remittance total to be at least 10 percent above the record of $10.7 billion in 2005.

Accent to financial services

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said continued demand for Filipino workers as well as more efficient banking services helped boost the remittance figures.

"It is expected that with the recent linkup of the three major automated teller machine (ATM) networks, beneficiaries of overseas workers will have increased access to financial services provided by commercial banks, encouraging utilization of formal channels for remittance transfers," Tetangco said.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that the total number of deployed workers rose by 12.5 percent in May.

For the first five months, sea-based workers deployed abroad increased by 15.1 percent to 115,557 versus a year ago even as land-based workers declined by 3.6 percent to 350,705 during the same period.

The OFWs likewise wired in more money in May to take advantage of the foreign exchange rate.

Bulk from US

After peaking at 50.88:$1 in March, the peso depreciated past the 53 barrier in May, thus allowing OFW beneficiaries to get more pesos for their dollars.

The bulk of the OFW remittances came from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates, Tetangco noted.

The Philippines is now the world's third biggest recipient of migrant remittances next to India and Mexico.

To handle the growing cash transfers from Filipinos abroad, Philippine banks continue to strengthen their capacity.

For instance, RCBC TeleMoney, the remittance arm of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., yesterday entered into a strategic partnership with US-based Travelex Money Transfer (TMT).

Professionals

Through the tie-up with TMT and its local representative Asian FX Money Exchange, OFW beneficiaries can receive their TMT remittances at any of the 178 business centers of RCBC, said Cynthia Santos, RCBC senior vice president and TeleMoney Group head.

Bankers said the strong remittance flows were also due to the fact that a big portion of Filipinos leaving for abroad consisted of highly paid professionals such as doctors, nurses and information technology experts.

The Department of Labor and Employment yesterday said the deployment of OFWs rose by 1.69 percent in the first semester to 564,920 compared to 555,533 in the same period last year. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Police, LGUs ordered to play more active role in fight vs NPAs

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday ordered the police and local government units to play a more active role in the campaign against Communist insurgents, officials said.

Ms Arroyo signed an executive order allowing governors and mayors to draw more funds from state coffers to support local security efforts, including intelligence gathering and surveillance, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno told reporters.

"This is very timely," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. "The armed forces cannot be present in all areas of the country while the police do not have the capability even though they are everywhere."

He said the President's order would "delineate the specific roles" of the military, police and local executives in the fight against the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its 7,400-member New People's Army (NPA).

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the order is in line with Arroyo's previous instructions for the military to crush, within two years, the CPP-NPA networks in the provinces surrounding Manila. *AFP*

RP issues travel ban to Lebanon, sets evacuation

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAS advised Filipinos in Lebanon "to remain where they are but prepare for immediate relocation to safer, pre-designated areas", the Department of Foreign Affairs said late yesterday afternoon.

The advisory, known as Alert Level 2, was imposed by the embassy following the continued air strikes by Israel in Beirut.

The government has also announced a ban on travel to Lebanon.

Some 30,000 Filipinos, mostly as domestic helpers, are working in Lebanon.

In a statement, the DFA said that Foreign Affairs and Labor officials had met to "review the security situation in Lebanon as reported by the Philippine Embassy in Beirut, and to coordinate on government plans to protect Filipinos already in that country and those planning to work there."

The DFA and DOLE had also decided to reiterate a travel advisory urging Filipinos planning to travel to Lebanon to postpone their trip in view of the current security situation there, said Esteban Conejos Jr., DFA undersecretary for migrant workers' affairs.

Good RP-Taiwan ties help rebuild lives in S. Leyte

FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE LANDSLIDE THAT killed some 1,200 in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard in Southern Leyte, many survivors can now look forward to having a new place of their own at the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Energy Village in nearby Liloan town.

Through the partnership of the government and private sectors, the project will not only build housing units for displaced families, but also a community with a day care center, a multi-purpose center, a basketball court, livelihood programs, as well as health and nutrition, child and youth development and values formation programs will be implemented after the resettlement.

The Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), through the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, has donated $100,000 to build 12 classrooms in two school buildings. Teco representative Dr. Hsin-Hsing Wu attended the groundbreaking ceremony and capsule laying.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias said the schools will be known as the Taiwan School of San Francisco, Southern Leyte. The buildings will be completed in three to four months along with 50 duplex residential units in the GK Energy Village in Liloan.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

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1st Reading: Is 6:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 10:24-33

Jesus said to his apostles, "A student is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. A student should be glad to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If the head of the family has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the family! So, do not be afraid of them.

There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a few cents you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid: you are worth much more than many sparrows.

Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

Commentary

Now we meet Isaiah, the only one who wanted to be a prophet, who says: "Here I am, Lord, send me!" He sees the awesome power of God and he sees his own unworthiness and is purged in the fire of God. This Isaiah will be persecuted terribly, his name is "the suffering servant of Yahweh."

And Jesus warns us that we will be persecuted, hounded, and treated as he, our Master, was treated. But we are to proclaim the Word in the light and reveal all that has been uncovered for us and trust that God lays claim to every hair on our heads. Be afraid of nothing! Know our worth with God and let all know God owns us.

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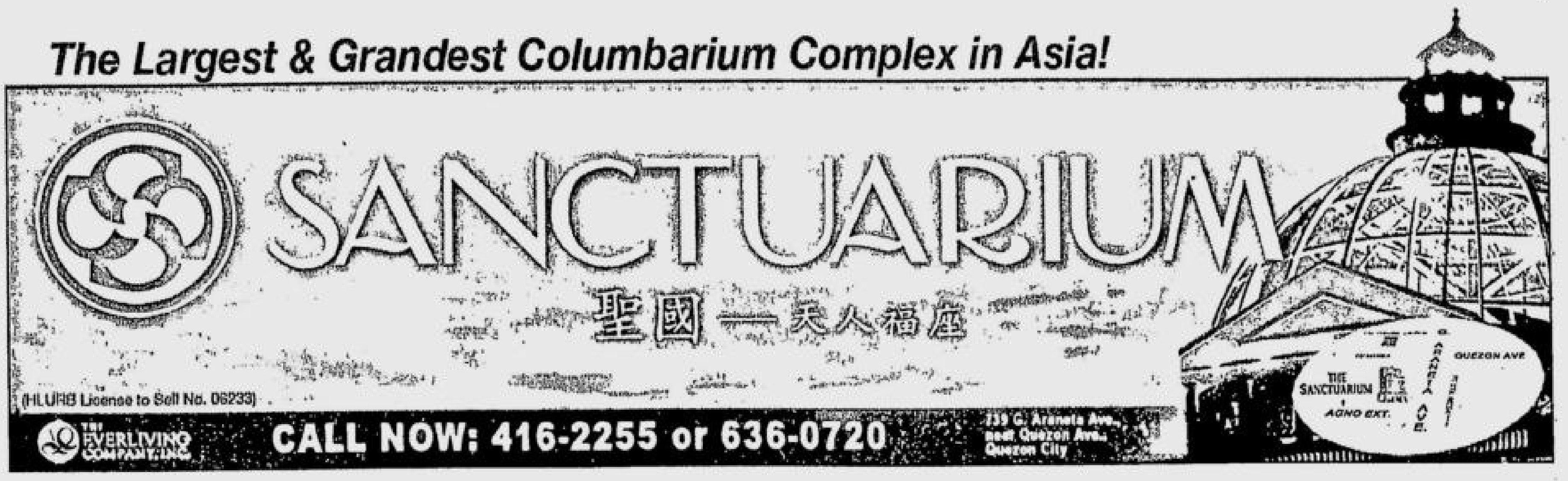
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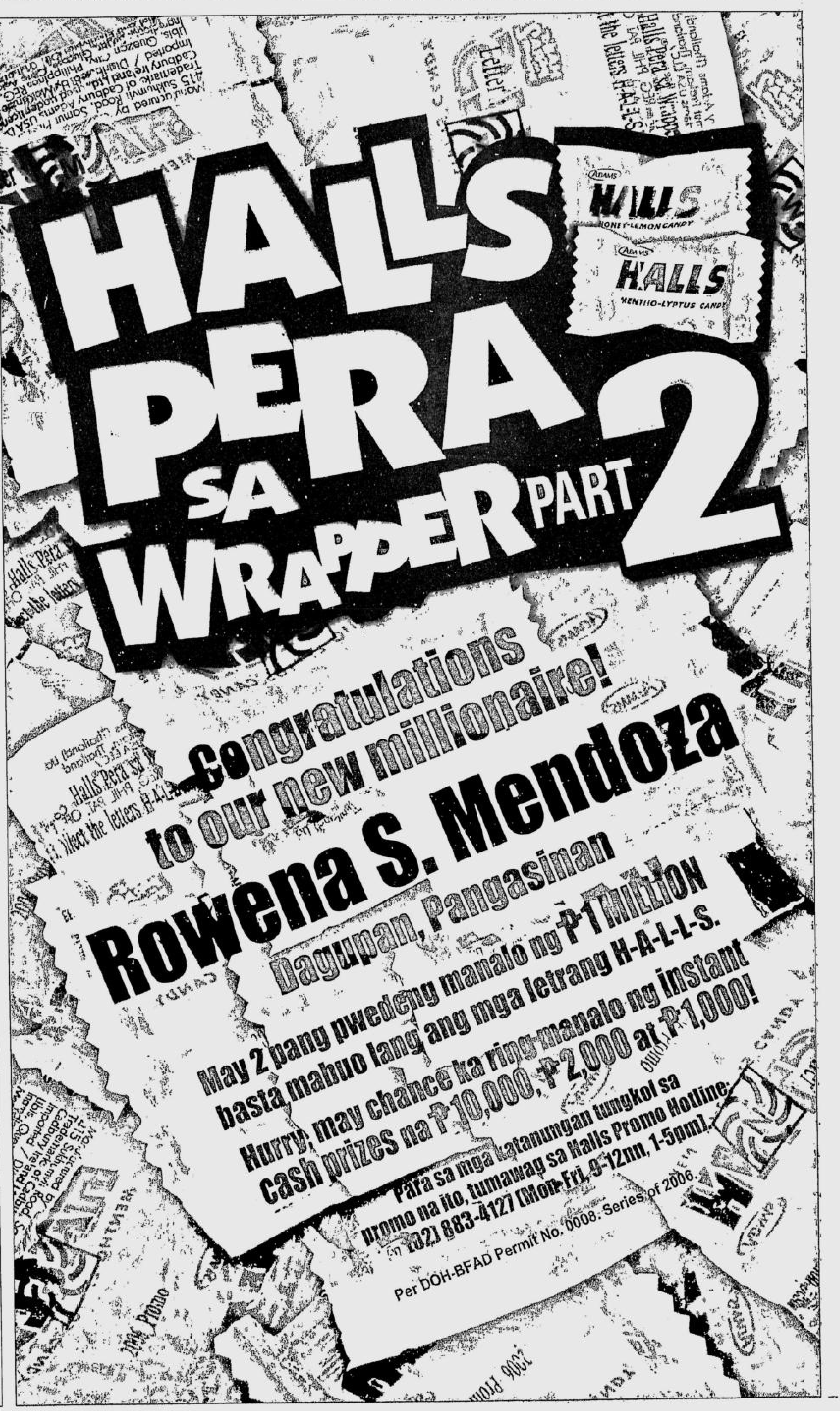
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GMA off to Brunei today for Sultan's 60th birthday

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei—Preparations were in full swing Friday for the 60th birthday of one of the world's last reigning monarchs in the tiny, oil-rich sultanate of Brunei, as dignitaries and blue bloods from across Southeast Asia began arriving for the customary lavish celebrations.

The extraordinarily wealthy Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, whose family has ruled the Southeast Asian nation for around 600 years, turns 60 on Saturday. He has presided over Brunei for nearly four decades.

A 20-minute fireworks display above the gold-decked 1,788-room palace will cap off a royal dinner banquet on Saturday.

Among the dinner guests will be Philippine President Gloria Arroyo, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Singapore leader Lee Hsien Loong and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. Royalty and state leaders from Jordan and Malaysia are also expected. Officials said some of the guests had already arrived, but refused to provide any details.

Malacanang said Ms Arroyo was scheduled to leave today for Brunei at 11 a.m.

The tiny, tropical country of 380,000 has been celebrating since early July and festivities—including traditional boat races, concerts, fireworks displays and buffets—will continue through August.

Money doleouts

The sultan's birthday largess is legendary. In the past, he has thrown free pop concerts with superstars Michael Jackson and Celine Dion, and one year he even built an amusement park with complimentary rides. The sultan is also known to dole out money to his subjects on his birthday.

The royal family is also famous for its extravagance. Once, while playing polo with Prince Charles, Hassanal had his polo shoes delivered—by helicopter—to him at the polo field.

2,000 dignitaries

This year's festivities are slightly lower-key, Information Ministry official Amir Zakaria told reporters.

On Saturday, Hassanal will inspect a 2,000-strong guard of honor in the center of the capital Bandar Seri Begawan, and then host around 2,000 dignitaries at the main palace.

Conspicuously missing from the guest list is the ruler's younger brother Jefri, currently living in exile in London—blamed for a series of financial blunders and extravagance that led to more than $7 billion in losses in the 1990s.

The sultan is one of the world's richest men, and presides over vast—but dwindling—oil resources that have turned the tiny nation on the island of Borneo into one of the richest countries per capita.

Nonstop coverage

Huge billboards of Hassanal festoon the usually sleepy capital, and many shops hung banners wishing the sultan happy birthday, while restaurants were offering discounts to mark the day.

The ruler's family controls all key government positions, and citizens rarely speak ill of the sultan.

The central bank issued commemorative gold coins to mark the occasion and state-run TV has been running nonstop coverage of the sultan and his achievements.

Even Friday prayers in Muslim-majority Brunei were dedicated to the sultan. *AP*

3 Pinoy kids are world jr. champs

From page A1

"We just showed the world that we don't only have Manny Pacquiao but very good jungolfers as well," said Bang Mamaril, president of the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines.

Ryan Monsalve was the only other trophy winner for the Philippines, placing third in the boys' Class F (6 and under). Also doing well were JR Gonzales (60-185) who checked in sixth in Class D and Miguel Tabuena who wound up 11th (74-220) fighting the big boys in his junior year in Class C at Cottonwood.

Surprise sweetener

While Ardina and Rodriguez lived up to their roles as the top bets of a delegation supported by Philippine Airlines, Samsung, PCSO, Pagcor and ICTSI, it was Legaspi who came out of nowhere to provide the surprise sweetener.

The 7-year-old daughter of the former chief of staff of ex-President Fidel Ramos lost a four-shot overnight lead early but made two 20-foot putts for birdies in a four-hole span from the 11th that paved the way for a five-shot swing.

Legaspi shot an even-par 58 for a 181 aggregate, beating American Allisen Corpuz who also had a 58 for 185.

If it was meant to send a message to those who stole her clubs on the eve of the tournament, Ardina's final round mocked them big time. She was short of spectacular in a four-under 69 effort and a 209 total that left Arizona's Lindsey Weaver (73-217) and the rest gasping for breath.

Joke at clubhouse

The joke at the clubhouse was even if Ardina had used tree branches for clubs, she would still end up winning. She capped her second victory in the world championships—she also took the 8-under crown in 2002—with birdies on the last three holes and four of the last five.

In contrast was Rodriguez's feat. As two-day leader Elisa Aoki faded early, the Filipino youngster went into the last two holes all even with Chirapat Jao Javanil of Thailand.

The big breakthrough came in the form of a 9-iron tee shot that stopped eight feet from the flag. Rodriguez went on to sink the go-ahead birdie putt and hold the lead with a regulation par on the final hole.

Rodriguez wound up with 72-213, Javanil had 72-214 and Aoki was third after a 76-216.

Class A bets

The Class A bets were to wrap up the Philippine campaign Friday at Torrey Pines. Debbie de Villa, the only Filipino survivor of the cut-off in girls' play, however, was already 14 behind Japan's Mika Miyazato.

In boys' action, Antonio Asistio (75-227) was tied for 34th and Miko Yee (76-230) shared 48th.

'Bolante case very rare'

From page A1

was not very common for any US consulate to revoke a visa when the holder was not physically present at the consulate.

Shusterman said the most common reason for visa cancellation was overstaying.

"You'd have to do something really bad to get your visa revoked like that," he said.

Why did DFA keep quiet?

At a press conference held July 10 at the Philippine Consulate in LA, Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III (LP, Quezon) raised the question of why it took the DFA several days to release the information on Bolante's arrest.

Advocating the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the press conference, Tañada brought up the Bolante case and criticized the Arroyo administration for continuing to refuse to address the issue.

"It's so ironic," the lawmaker said. "There I was, talking about Bolante at the consulate, and it turns out he had already been arrested. The consulate and the DFA apparently knew about the arrest and yet decided not to say anything about it."

Tañada speculated that Bolante's arrest could have been a move to keep the man in the United States for a longer period of time, if not permanently, to evade investigation for corruption.

"There's definitely more to this story than what is apparent right now," he added.

It was only on July 12 that DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque announced Bolante's July 7 arrest to reporters in Manila. Quoting Consul General William Gaa, Asuque said US authorities informed the LA consulate by phone of Bolante's arrest and detention only on July 10.

Political asylum

Bolante left the Philippines last year, after snubbing repeated summonses to a Senate inquiry into the disbursement of millions of pesos in fertilizer funds to administration allies, purportedly to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 presidential election.

On July 13, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero quoted his sources in California as saying that Bolante was planning to apply for political asylum in the United States.

Escudero speculated that Bolante could be planning to turn state witness against the Arroyo administration.

But Sharon Rummery, regional communications manager of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, said her agency could neither confirm nor deny this.

"Even if an asylum case has been filed, we cannot talk about it. That would be a violation of the Federal Privacy Act," she said.

Rummery said applicants for asylum would need to prove a "well-founded fear of persecution" based on any of the following: Race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a special social group.

Once asylum is granted, the person can stay in the United States for one year, after which he or she can become a permanent resident, she said.

Shusterman, a former lawyer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said it was possible for Bolante to apply for political asylum even after the cancellation of his US visa.

He must present reason

At the scheduled hearing on his visa case, Bolante will have to present a reason why he should not be deported, Shusterman said. An application for political asylum can be presented as a reason for being allowed to stay, he said.

As of July 14 (July 15 in the Philippines) Bolante remains in detention at the San Pedro Detention Center in California as he undergoes deportation proceedings for charges of immigration violation, said Lori Haley, spokesperson for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"(Bolante) is being processed for removal pending review of his case," she said.

Haley confirmed that Bolante's visa had been revoked by the US Embassy in Manila, but said her agency had no information on why this was done. She said only the embassy in Manila or the State Department in Washington could provide that information.

Right to privacy

However, State Department spokesperson Curtis Cooper said they could not comment on visa issues because of visa holders' right to privacy.

Both the DFA in Manila and the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles have turned silent on Bolante's case, referring questions from the media to the latter's Manila-based lawyer and spokesperson, Antonio Zulueta.

"[Bolante's] family requested privacy," said Consul Helen Barber.

But Chito Quijano, spokesperson of the US chapter of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, yesterday denounced the Arroyo administration for withholding information on Bolante's arrest, saying it was part of a cover-up of "one of the biggest government scams."

US Embassy, DFA mum on Bolante

From page A1

Lussenhop cited privacy rules in explaining why the embassy could not discuss visa matters.

Asked whether the embassy would still be bound by those rules even if, hypothetically speaking, it was a Philippine government entity that had requested the visa revocation, he said: "Yes, we're bound by all the rules."

As in the US Embassy, no one is talking from the camp of the ex-agriculture undersecretary suspected of being the architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Efforts by the INQUIRER to reach Bolante's lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, again came to naught yesterday, with the latter's staff saying he had not showed up at his office in Makati City.

Zulueta also would not answer text messages or calls made on his mobile phone. His staff said the INQUIRER must have been using the number of the phone he lost weeks ago.

But this much was gleaned about the lawyer to whom, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday, all questions about Bolante should be directed: Zulueta lawyered for President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law, Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, in the "Jose Pidal" controversy in 2003.

Iggy Arroyo, now representative of Negros Occidental, had claimed to be Jose Pidal, a pseudonym widely believed to be that of the President's husband and his elder brother, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

The DFA and the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles have also been mum on Bolante's case.

But DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said: "There's no complicity here."

Asuque said in a phone interview that the consulate had sent legal officer Noemi Diaz to attend Bolante's visa hearing on July 12 but that Bolante had declined the consular assistance.

"They (Bolante's camp) asked that their privacy be respected," Asuque said.

No reply

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has formally asked the US Embassy to divulge "all information" about Bolante's arrest, and is still awaiting a reply.

Magsaysay said his office sent a letter to US Ambassador Kristie Kenney last Tuesday seeking details on Bolante's arrest on July 7, including the reason behind the cancellation of his visa and his continued detention in San Pedro, California.

"There's still no reply. We are waiting for it," the senator said, adding that he was "surprised" by reports that it was the embassy that canceled Bolante's visa.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had earlier said it might have been a "formal request" from Magsaysay, the chair of the Senate investigation into the fertilizer fund scam, that prompted the embassy to cancel the visa.

But Magsaysay yesterday said the request he sent to the US Embassy last December only sought American assistance in locating Bolante and presenting the Senate summons to him.

"That was it. We did not ask them to cancel his visa because we thought that would be beyond our jurisdiction," Magsaysay said.

"[But] we also want to know if [Bolante's arrest] was an effect of our request then," he said.

Drilon

Malacañang is blaming Senate President Franklin Drilon for Bolante's visa problem.

Quoting top-level information reaching the Palace, a Cabinet official said it was Drilon who had worked for the cancellation of Bolante's visa, which led to his arrest in Los Angeles by US immigration authorities.

The official, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said Drilon had made the request through the US Embassy, using as basis the arrest warrant issued by the Senate on Bolante for his protracted snub of the inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam.

According to the official, Bolante's arrest was timed with the Senate plan to resume the inquiry.

Drilon had long requested the DFA to cancel Bolante's passport to force him to return to the Philippines. But the DFA rejected this request, saying the Senate had offered no basis for the action.

Asked yesterday to comment on the Palace official's claim, Drilon said: "That information is false. I had nothing to do with the cancellation of Bolante's visa, if it was indeed cancelled. I have not talked to anyone in the US Embassy on this issue."

No closure

Pimentel said the Senate still wanted to grill Bolante on the fertilizer fund scam on his return to the country.

"We do need him. We would still want to have him finish the investigation with his testimony," Pimentel said, adding:

"He would, in the words of American jurisprudence, be considered a material witness, which means that there may be difficulty in having a closure of the investigation without his testimony."

The senator said that while the Senate had issued a report on the fund scam, "it was not a final closure for sure."

"It was just dictated by circumstances because Bolante was avoiding the Senate investigation. We also did not want the investigation hanging," he said.

Pimentel said it would be natural for Malacañang to help Bolante but it would not want him to return because this would dredge up the fund scam.

"The ball does not stop at the hands of Mr. Bolante. Malacañang is very probably involved to a great extent in the misuse of the fertilizer money, which at this point would go beyond P1.2 billion, I think, considering that part of the Marcos wealth also disappeared," Pimentel said.

He added: "The reasons for the administration to help him go far beyond charity. I'm very sure that they have other motives in mind, like helping him maintain his silence, because if they reject him outright, he will have every reason to spill the beans on them."

DOJ opinion

Malacañang and the DFA have sought the opinion of the Department of Justice on the prospects of seeking Bolante's extradition, and was told that this was not legally feasible.

In a memorandum to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that for an extradition request to prosper, Bolante should first be "charged with or convicted of an extraditable offense."

The Philippine Extradition Law (PD 1069) "presupposes that in any extradition request, there must be at least a pending criminal case filed in court or a criminal case already tried in court, resulting in the conviction of an accused," Gonzalez said.

Thus, before the Philippines formally seeks Bolante's extradition from the United States, "a criminal case must first be filed against him in Philippine courts," Gonzalez added.

But he warned that to do so would "not only be premature but also violative of the provisions of our treaty with the United States."

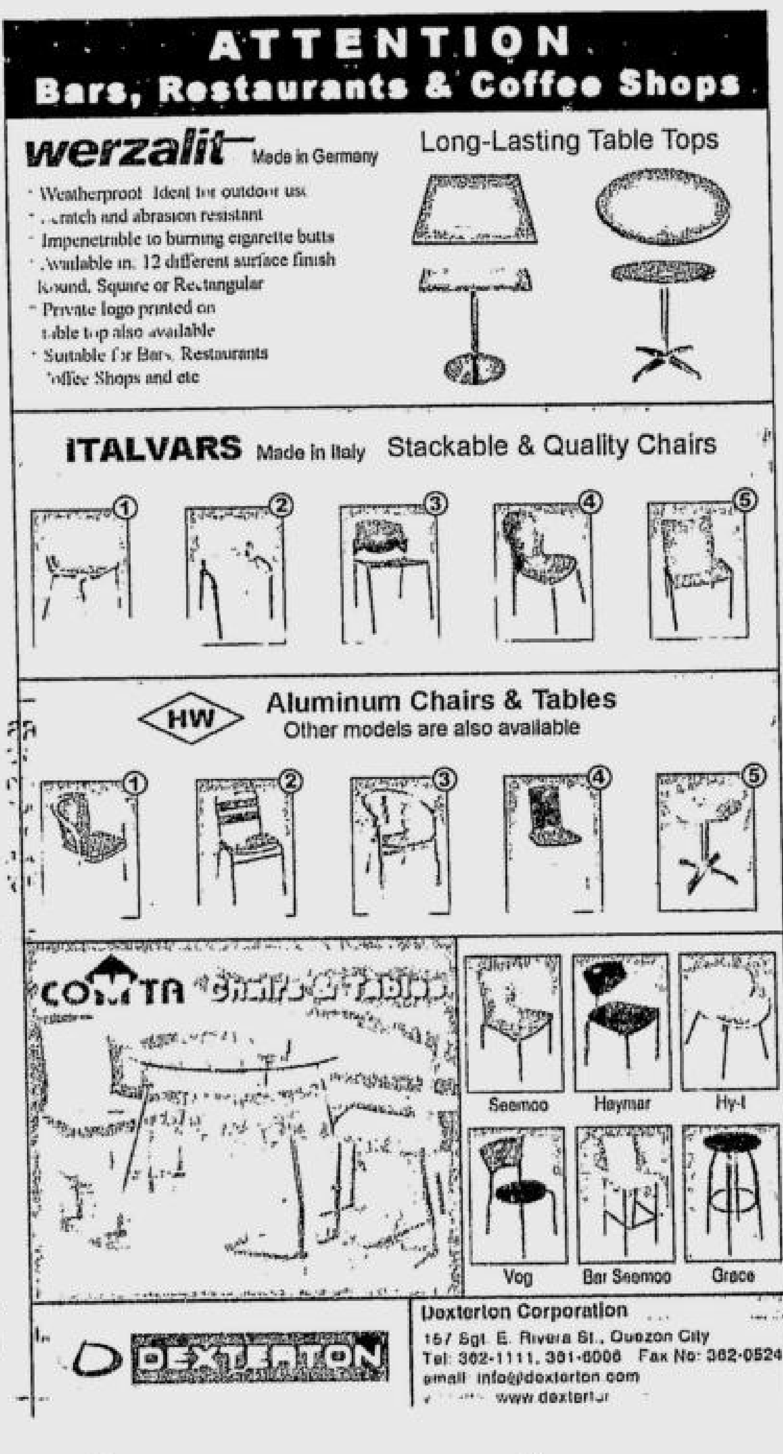
Gonzalez also said the Senate inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam and the issuance of an arrest warrant on Bolante were "not synonymous to a criminal case or trial envisioned in our laws."

Rotary Int'l treasurer

Bolante, of the Rotary Club of Parañaque South, had been selected by the president of Rotary International (RI) to serve as its treasurer for 2005-06.

According to the RI website, Bolante attended its convention in Sweden and Denmark on June 11-15 and reported on the state of its finances.

His report is accessible on the Internet. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum*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Vidal: I didn't join One Voice

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—CEBU ARCHBISHOP RICARDO Cardinal Vidal denied yesterday the claim of One Voice convenor Christian Monsod that he signed the manifesto or joined the group, which aims to oppose the move to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

Cardinal Vidal, who arrived from Spain on Thursday, clarified in a statement he released yesterday that he only agreed "in principle" to Monsod's request to facilitate a dialogue between One Voice and the Arroyo administration.

The prelate said he met Monsod last month because of his concerns, similar to those raised by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in its July 9 pastoral letter, regarding the seemingly endless political wrangling in Manila.

But he said he did not sign any manifesto.

"While I agreed in principle with his request to facilitate a dialogue with all parties and sectors, including the administration, to help mobilize support for electoral reform and a social reform program to address the real concerns of the poor, I did not sign the manifesto of One Voice for the same reason that I would be facilitating the supposed dialogue with all the sectors," Cardinal Vidal said.

Vidal said he hoped that with the statement, the issue would be put to an end.

Vidal was attending the Fifth World Meeting of Families in Valencia, Spain when the report of his supposed involvement with One Voice came out in national newspapers, with Monsod insisting that the prelate had indicated an intention to join the group in phone conversations with him.

"Though I do not wish to be identified with any group, I pray that the efforts of all well-meaning advocacies across the political spectrum will enrich our democracy, inform our deliberations and lead our people to the right decisions about our nation's future," he said.

Vidal also said he fully agreed with the pastoral statement of the CBCP issued on July 9 stating its concern about issues that currently embroil the Church and the country.

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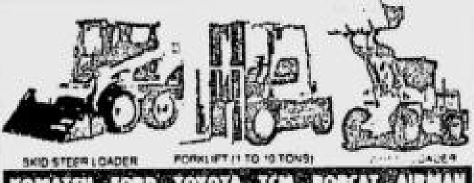
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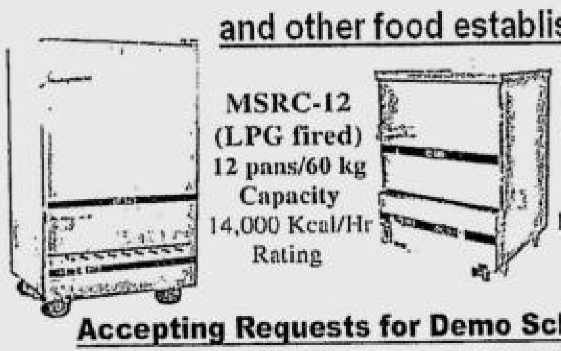
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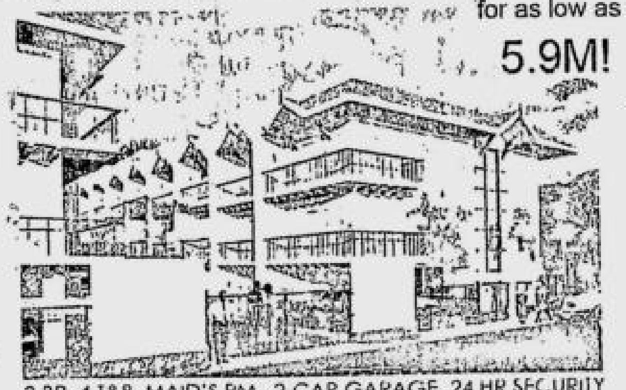
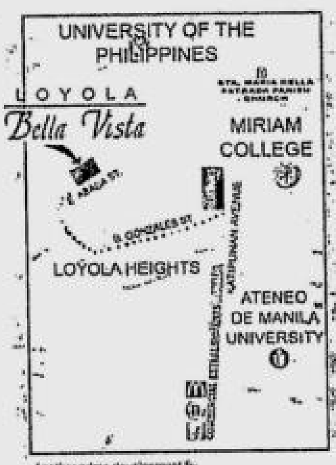
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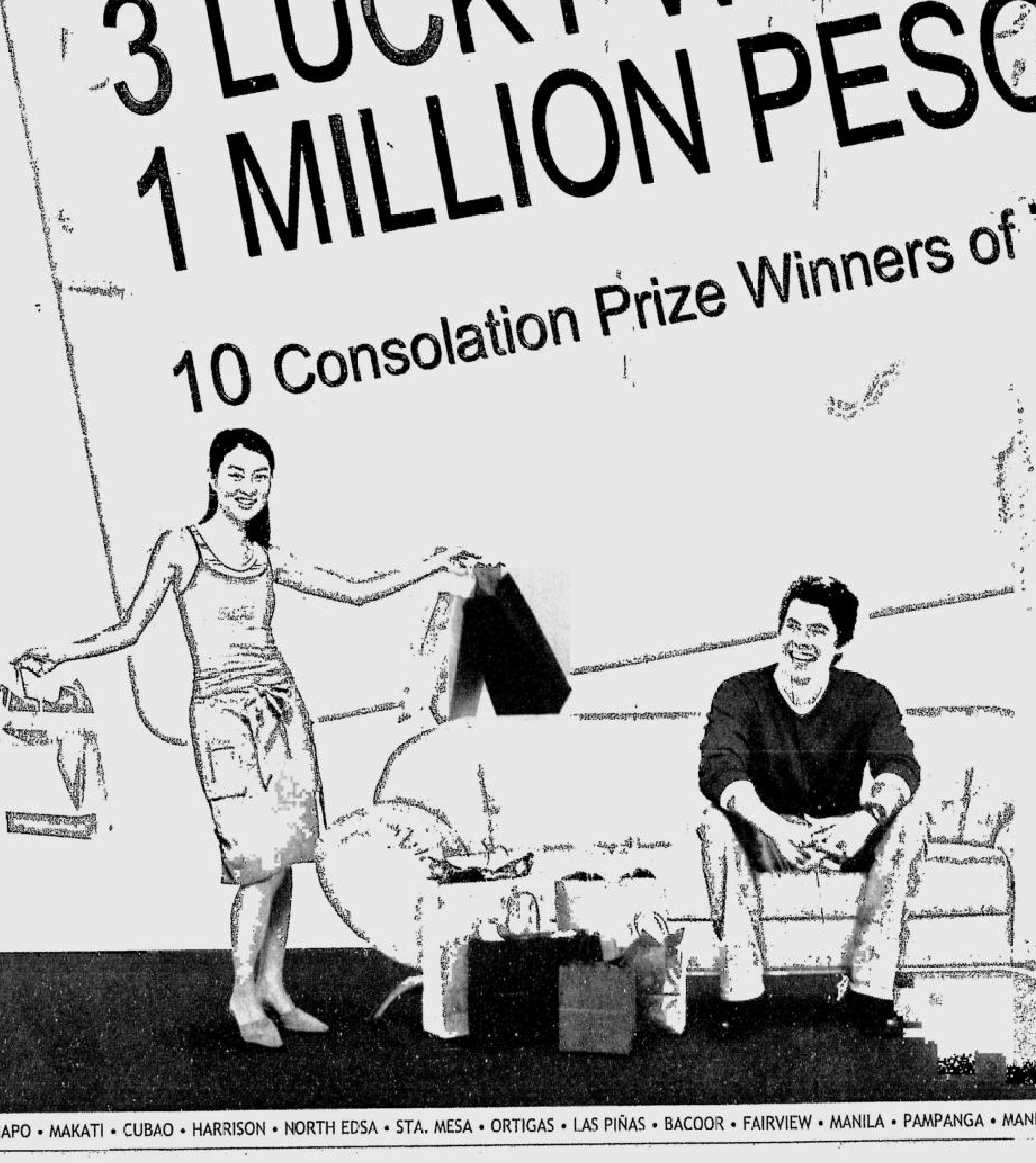

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Bring him back

EDITORIAL

REACTING TO REPORTS THAT FORMER AGRICULture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante had been taken into custody by the US authorities in Los Angeles, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita brushed off suggestions that the government would rush to his aid. If the government is going to help at all, Ermita said, it would just be "the same assistance it would give ordinary Filipinos." Ermita went on to explain why: "He is a private citizen. If the government helps him, [people] will say Malacañang helped Bolante, so Malacañang is responsible for hiding Bolante."

If the Arroyo administration wants to make the Filipino people believe that it is doing right by Bolante, it should do more than just talk. As agriculture undersecretary, Bolante allegedly orchestrated the P728-million fertilizer scam that is said to have partly funded the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 elections. He is the subject of a warrant of arrest that was issued after he had repeatedly ignored summonses to appear in the Senate hearings to shed light on the scandalous transactions. Until his arrest in Los Angeles, he had been playing hide-and-seek with the Filipino people, in much the same way as another infamous former official, Virgilio Garcillano. A Commission on Audit report submitted to the Senate provides a detailed documentation of the fertilizer scam.

Ermita errs if he thinks people would believe the Palace had a hand in Bolante's disappearing acts only if it bails the latter out of the fix he's now in. The public has always suspected that Bolante, who is widely known as a close friend of First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo in the Rotary Club, was able to evade the long arm of the law on account of his Malacañang connection. Even former President Fidel V. Ramos, an ally of Ms Arroyo, said Bolante's disappearances were "damaging" to Ms Arroyo.

People cannot be blamed for having this perception. While Bolante was slipping in and out of the country, Malacañang (the seat of the executive department which is primarily responsible for the enforcement of Philippine laws), the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Immigration were acting as if Bolante and the corruption charges against him were none of their business. Under Senate pressure, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez (a classmate of the President's husband) formed a task force to look into the fertilizer scam four months ago but nothing has come out of the investigation. It is clear that the administration's treatment of Bolante's case lacks the zeal and efficiency that Malacañang and law enforcement agencies exhibit when they go after "government destabilizers" and "enemies of the state."

Now Bolante is in the hands of the US government with whom the Philippine government has an extradition treaty. It should be much easier for the administration to bring him home and make him explain how he "supervised" the disbursement of the P728-million fertilizer fund. But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has said the Philippine government would ask for Bolante's extradition since it is not the obligation of the executive department to enforce a warrant of arrest issued by the Senate. Apparently to Gonzalez, the Senate is no longer a part of the Philippine government. But by refusing to lift a finger to bring Bolante home, he has only confirmed the public perception that Bolante is special to the Arroyo administration.

A few weeks ago, President Arroyo announced that she was putting P1 billion more into the government's war against graft and corruption. If she meant it as a signal of her renewed resolve to stamp out corruption in government, that resolve will be put to a test by Bolante's arrest. She can move that campaign one big step forward by ordering the Department of Justice and the Department of Foreign Affairs to start the legal process that would bring Bolante back to explain where the P728 million went. But will she dare to hear what Bolante might reveal?

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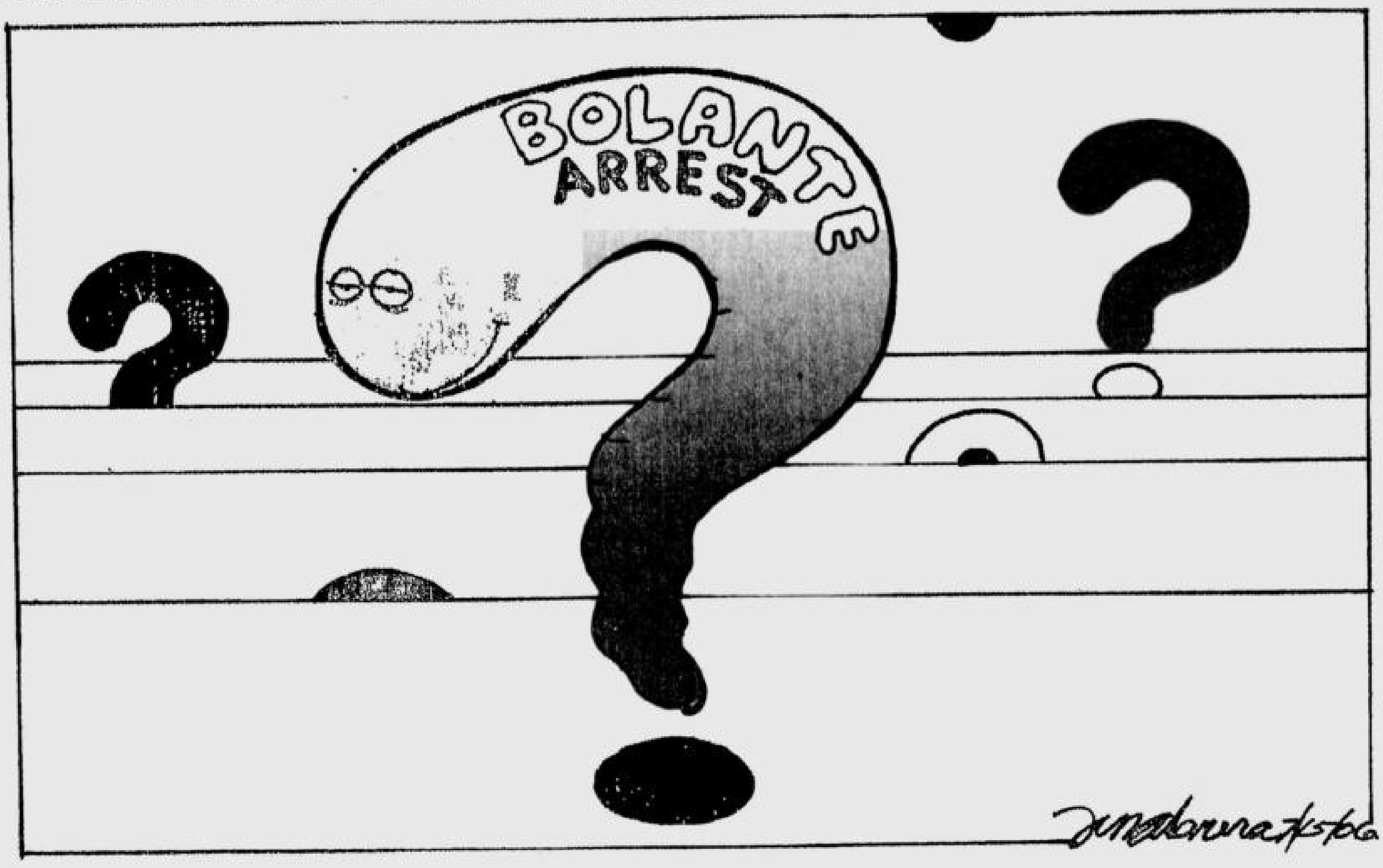

Good news and questions

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE BEST NEWS THAT MADE THE DAY FOR many of us this week was the arrest of Jocelyn Bolante in the United States for violation of its immigration laws. He was wanted by the Senate for his refusal to attend the legislative investigation of the disposition of the P728 million fertilizer fund, but he was soon nowhere to be found. The Senate immediately issued a warrant for his arrest, but he had already flown the coop.

The administration took no pains to compel his return, apparently because it was safer for it that he was unavailable for close questioning. The real reason for the release of the fund intended for the benefit of the farmers might open a can of worms. The opposition is charging that the money had been spent instead for the election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to buy votes and not fertilizers. The bag people entrusted with the fund might have also diverted part of it to their own pockets as part of their share in the embezzlement.

The apologists of Malacañang have disowned any interest in their former colleague and have refused to bail him out for the steep sum of $100,000. This roughly translates to P5,200,000. Nevertheless, it is likely that the amount will be peanuts to some anonymous friend who will feel obligated to help Bolante. As for the identity of this open-handed patron, your guess is as good as mine—and we're probably both right.

One may wonder why the American authorities have taken special interest in Bolante's arrest, considering the incredibly high number of illegal aliens in that country. These include some thousands of Filipinos who have been staying there for years without molestation from the authorities. They are among the hordes of what we call TNTs (*tago nang tago*) from other lands that the Statue of Liberty has generously invited to: "Give me your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores."

Bolante is not among the unfortunates attracted by the hospitality of America. He is not a "wretched refuse" but a prosperous businessman. He is an elected director of Rotary International who had to attend one of its meetings as his excuse for skipping the Senate investigation. He certainly could not be mistaken for an unemployed fruit picker out to deprive a citizen of the United States of his lawful employment. Yet, strangely enough, he is now under arrest on the relatively simple ground of a defect in his visa.

I am not complaining; in fact, I am happy that the American police have apprehended him. It's just that I can't help wondering why they have not been as efficient in locating other persons wanted by the Philippine government for various more serious offenses. Among them are Cesar Mancao for questioning on the murder of Bubby Dacer and his driver, and Yolanda Ricaforte in connection with the plunder case against Joseph Estrada.

I hope it is not true that our own agents will be sent to the United States to serve the warrant of arrest on Bolante and bring him back to the Philippines for condign punishment. This is an ignorant presumptuousness. That warrant of arrest has no legal force and our own policemen have no lawful authority in the United States without its consent. That is why we cannot arrest Nida Blanca's husband in California and bring him back to the Philippines for prosecution as her killer.

Also good news on another important matter was the revelation by several bishops of the attempt to bribe them with envelopes containing thousands of pesos inconspicuously slipped in their pockets during the recent CBCP conference. On another occasion, three of them were offered checks from Pagcor, two for P500,000 each and the third for P300,000, which they all rejected. So was the cash secretly given to the other bishops, who also felt insulted.

The donees said that the gifts were immoral even if they were supposedly intended for their poor parishioners, to whom they should have been directly sent. The general feeling was that the real purpose of the supposed charity was to buy their support for issues favorable to President Arroyo, especially the dismissal of the new impeachment complaints against her.

The report has the ring of truth coming as they do from high officials of the clergy. But the allies of the President call it a "smear campaign" and "the devil's handiwork," with which they must be familiar. At any rate, some questions are relevant but still unanswered.

Assuming the bishops' charges to be true, are there some of them who have accepted the donations and kept cautiously silent about them? Some of them might have been prayerfully grateful. As for Ms Arroyo's angry defenders, do they have further proof of their principal's innocence other than their mere denial of wrongdoing? This should not be enough in light of their previous established record of wrongdoing.

I hope these serious issues are elevated to the Supreme Court for an orderly ascertainment of the truth. And may they not be simply dismissed on the usual technical or procedural grounds to justify another convenient judicial cop-out.

An attempted coup, nothing else

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT—IS THAT A crime?

Yes, say the administration spokespersons. No, says the opposition. And the discussions are entertaining—except that they have diverted our people's attention from the real issue: that what happened was an attempted coup d'etat. That it failed, we should be thankful for. So let us not waste any more of our time and energy (not to mention newspaper and TV space) discussing whether withdrawal of support is a crime or not. In the present case, it is being used as a euphemism for an attempted coup—and that is definitely a crime.

How do we know it was an attempted coup? Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's statement, as transcribed from that videotape obtained by ABS-CBN, says it all (again, the issue of whether or not it was leaked by Malacañang is diversionary/obfuscatory). And before anybody tries to further obfuscate the issue by saying that the videotape is spurious, Lim himself admits that it is authentic. The statement was to have been read when the AFP and PNP threw in their support (which never happened, thank heaven).

What is contained in that statement? First, an assurance of loyalty to God and country and duty to the Constitution. Then, a description of what is considered to be a problem: a crisis of extreme proportions. Then, a bill of particulars on cheating by a corrupt Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who has corrupted the Supreme Court, the Comelec, the media, "some" members of the military, police and clergy (notice the sweep of the charge against the Court and the Comelec, and the "some" when referring to the military, police and clergy—but Lim did not mention who the "some" were), resulting in a government that is now a criminal syndicate, oppressing the people. And penultimately, the famous "withdrawal of support" in order to "end her unconstitutional and illegal occupation of the presidency" (which is why the sweeping statement about the Court and the Comelec, although the statement is silent on Congress, which did the canvassing).

The final part of the statement leaves no doubt as to who will be in charge: they (the AFP and the PNP—the elements which are not corrupt, obviously) are. Sure, they will "leave the actual business of governing ... in the hands of professionally competent, morally upright, patriotic, trustworthy and self-sacrificing Filipinos"—all chosen by, you guessed it, them.

In other words, they wanted to overthrow the government and take over themselves, bypassing not only the Constitution (which they were sworn to uphold and defend, mind you), but the people themselves (who are supposed to choose their leaders).

After reading that statement, one would have a hard time claiming that Lim et al. did not have a coup in mind. But for those who still are not convinced, the Lopez committee report should remove all doubts. The committee, officially called the Ad Hoc Investigating Committee, was created to inquire, among other things, into the alleged involvement/participation of military officers in the events of Feb. 19 to 26, 2006 that culminated in the "stand-off" at the Philippine Marine Headquarters on Feb. 26.

With Rear Adm. Rufino S. Lopez Jr. as chair, Maj. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo as vice chair, the committee had six other members (Maj. Gen. Nilo Deypalubos, Rear Adm. Rogelio Calunsag, Colonels Caridad Aguilar, Vicente Porto, Carlix Donila and Gaudencio Pangilinan).

What does the report contain? First, it details the chronology of events from two perspectives: the participation of the Philippine Marines (Querubin, Miranda et al.), starting from Jan. 19, 2006, and the participation of the First Scout Ranger Regiment and other officers (Lim et al.) from the fourth quarter of 2005. It then analyzes the plan ("Operation Gemstone"), and the actions of the officers, and concludes that the end state was not just a march with weapons held muzzles down, but the seizing of power, with Lim and Querubin as the principals. Finally, it recommends that 1[illegible] officers from the Philippine Marines (starting with Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda), 20 officers from the Philippine Army (starting with Lim), and 27 non-commissioned officers be relieved from their posts, placed under custody and charged before a general court martial with specified transgressions and misdemeanors involving the Articles of War, as well as having their fitness for remaining in the service determined.

Moreover, the Lopez committee recommends endorsing the case to the Department of Justice for possible filing of criminal charges against Querubin (inciting to sedition) and Lim, Querubin, Miranda and 18 other officers plus retired Col. Reynaldo Cabauatan (frustrated, or conspiracy and proposal to commit coup d'etat).

How much clearer can you get?

It is also interesting that the investigators seem to have lost patience (and about time too) with coup plotters. The report notes that seven of the officers (including Lim and Querubin) were also involved in past coup attempts, and recommends that anyone involved in a coup attempt should be barred from commanding elite units.

The Lopez committee should be commended for its thoroughness, firmness and promptness. But one cannot avoid raising some questions, like: How come the Mayuga report on military involvement in election cheating in May 2004 has not come out (or been leaked) yet? That should also be released in full, if only to allay fears that the military is not afraid to release reports, so long as the report does not hurt the administration. No politics please.

Lessons from Zidane fiasco: Keep cool

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOCCER AFICIONADOS WERE SIMPLY stunned last Sunday (Monday early morning in Manila) when, quite suddenly, the French team captain and soccer icon Zinedine Zidane head-butted Italy's Marco Materazzi toward the closing minutes of the World Cup finals. As a result, Zidane was expelled from the game which was then deadlocked at 1-1. France lost the penalty shootout, 5-3. Last Wednesday, in an interview over French TV, Zidane explained why he did it: Materazzi provoked him repeatedly during the game, insulting his mother and sister.

Zidane's expulsion proved very demoralizing for the French team, but it was also most tragic for the soccer superstar, for his violent act came as he prepared to bow out of a most remarkable and celebrated career. He insisted that Materazzi ought to share the blame, and there is a clamor from some quarters for a rematch. That's a long shot, especially after the wild acclaim Italy accorded its sports heroes, but the incident does teach us a lesson or two about the need to keep our cool. Taunting is a common strategy resorted to by players in various sports as well as by political practitioners, especially in the Philippines, as we saw in the first impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo last year. But as the saying goes, *ang pikon talo.*

* * *

Former President Fidel V. Ramos has been writing for the Manila Bulletin for a while now, and readers, including this writer, always find his pieces solid, well-researched and highly informative. In a column last month, FVR noted that the World Cup competition saw 32 survivors of a global elimination contest in which more than 100 national teams took part over a period of three years. From the results of the qualifying rounds, he said, it was evident that the favored teams do not necessarily come from the global economic and political heavyweights, such as those that dominate the Olympics. This year's World Cup included the likes of Brazil, Argentina, Italy, the Czech Republic, Ghana and Tunisia, proving that over the last 35 years, developing countries have been as successful as the developed nations, he said.

* * *

FVR aired this thought as a take-off point at the recent conference on "RP-EU Business Opportunities & Challenges" sponsored in part by the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation. His thesis was that the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) for RP has been European Union member-states, but the amount going into our country is still among the lowest in the Asean region. The Philippines could become more attractive, said FVR, if it could "transform and move out of the ranks of the uncompetitive and inefficient." But can RP do this? Ramos said this is like asking if RP can play in the World Cup someday. But then why not? he continued. "Did not the Czechs wallop the Americans, 3-0, last June 13?"

* * *

At the recent dzRH program I hosted with Cecile Alvarez, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda deplored the P64 billion cut the senators had made on the P1.05 trillion 2006 budget as "criminal." But he remained optimistic that between the State of the Nation Address on July 24 and the submission by the Office of the President of the 2007 budget within the month of August, the 2006 budget could still squeeze through the bicameral conference committee and get the approval of Congress. Thanks to the cut made by the senators, the second regular session of the 13th Congress adjourned with the two chambers deadlocked over the budget, so that government is now operating under a reenacted budget. By the next month, the nation would probably witness the ridiculous situation where two budgets would be debated.

* * *

Salceda drove home a point missed by most: that in effect, the budget cut made by the senators amounted to P129 billion. As he explained it, since the government is running on a reenacted budget, the P65 billion in the 2005 budget infrastructure spending has already been spent and won't be replaced. Add this to the P64 billion cut from the 2006 budget and it becomes P129 billion that the government cannot use. Salceda noted that among the items deleted by the senators are the local government fund called "Kilos Asenso" for infrastructure pump-priming and the "Kalayaan Barangay" fund which would infuse a P5-million livelihood fund to every barangay that is cleared of rebel infestation. About 600 barangays stood to benefit from this program which, ironically, was a brainchild of the "Hyatt 10."

Also abandoned due to the budget cut, Salceda noted, was the P1.7 billion project allocating one kilo of rice to every public school student a week, as a way of arresting the high dropout rate partly caused by chronic hunger.

* * *

Salceda explained that in previous years, the Arroyo administration prioritized reduction of the huge budget deficit, largely by tightening on spending and instituting fiscal reforms. But now, with increased revenues and actual deficit reduction, its priority has shifted to increasing spending to spur and sustain economic growth. He explained the direct relationship between spending and growth, saying that increased government spending last year was the leading factor for the 5 percent growth in the Gross Domestic Product. GDP growth of more than 2 percent means over 500,000 families rescued from poverty.

Salceda noted, however, that despite increased infrastructure spending, RP's spending is still lower than that of its neighbors. A recent study put RP at No. 59 among 60 countries in infrastructure competitiveness. He said that while the senators cut the huge item from the 2006 budget for fear that the administration would use it for politicking, they are hurting the people more as this would severely affect the poverty alleviation program. "Let's get our politics right and we'll get our infrastructure right," he said.

Politics is the problem

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, LUTGARDO BARBO, named by the Philippine Normal University Board of Regents as its new president, said that he was willing to "reconcile with the school officials who had resigned from their administrative posts" after the BOR reaffirmed his appointment last week.

I met with four senior faculty members of PNU, three of whom were among the resigned administrative officials, earlier this week, and when asked about this offer of reconciliation, all they had to say was: "What reconciliation?"

"What we're experiencing at the university these days is a counter-insurgency campaign," said one of the four. "There is a crackdown on all forms of dissent. Students who have been taking part in the protests have been summoned. There is pressure being put on temporary teachers to sign a statement of support for Barbo. And our access to venues and the use of the sound system for our meetings has been taken away." After the 30 officials resigned from their administrative positions, they added, Barbo immediately appointed officers in charge, making no attempt to dialogue with the disgruntled officials or reach a settlement.

At this point, though, say the faculty members, the only point of "reconciliation" they seek is for him to step down, or accept, as their protest pins put it: a "Graceful Exit."

Actually, meeting with the four representatives of the protesting faculty, personnel and students of PNU was somewhat of a surreal experience. Not one could be described by any stretch of imagination as a "rabble rouser." There we were, sitting in a coffee shop, and decorously discussing the situation at PNU. It was like meeting with a group of school principals, actually, though their troubled countenances belied their anger and sense of betrayal despite their careful tones and clipped English.

* * *

THE FOUR stress that their protests and lobbying are aimed not only at getting Barbo to take a "graceful exit" from the PNU presidency but also to uphold a system of meritocracy within the academe.

"Not once has this happened" in over 100 years of the university's existence, they said. The turnover of PNU's leadership has always taken place in an orderly, lawful manner. But in this instance, they said, the BOR has clearly overstepped its authority, riding roughshod over an established search process and holding the opinions of the rest of the university community in contempt.

One of their aims, they said, was to call for a review of RA 8292, signed into law in 1996, that specified the composition of the boards of regents of state colleges and universities, so that, among other things, these institutions could be "more effective in the formulation and implementation of policies on higher education," and "ensure the enjoyment of academic freedom."

What has happened instead is that the representatives sitting on the BORs, including that of the PNU, have used to their positions to favor certain candidates for leadership positions. "Instead of freeing these institutions from politicizing, the law has in fact increased it," said one teacher.

* * *

ALREADY, Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Teddy Casiño and Akbayan Party-List Rep. Etta Rosales are reported to have submitted resolutions to the House committee on higher and technical education to look into the PNU controversy and review the Higher Education Modernization Act.

In a report, Casiño said he wanted the committee to look into the composition of the governing boards which have been "used by politicians to turn the academe into a huge playing field for patronage politics."

Under the law, the governing boards are each to be composed of the chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as chair; the president of the university or college; the chairs of the congressional committees on education and culture; the Neda regional director; the regional director of the DOST or other relevant agencies, depending on the nature of the institution; the president of the faculty association; the president of the student council; the president of the alumni association; and two "prominent citizens" representing the private sector.

The trouble is that, given the number of state colleges and universities, the designated agencies and politicians often assign their own representatives to the BORs. In the case of the legislators, various staffers often sit in for them during meetings and deliberations.

* * *

WHICH brings us to another point of contention. Do these representatives truly reflect the will and thinking of their principals? Or do they vote according to their personal beliefs, or perhaps merely accede to the lobbying of influential members of the board?

During the PNU deliberations, for instance, designated representatives sitting in the BOR claimed that they had "no one in mind" when they arrived for the deliberations on the next president and relied merely on the "three-minute interviews" that each candidate sat through. When asked if they had consulted with their principals before voting, they said they didn't need to.

While representatives of the academic community sit on the governing boards, they are clearly outnumbered by politicians and government officials. This brings to question the priority given to purely academic considerations among these boards, especially since so many of the designated representatives sit there merely on assignment from their principals.

The law says that the president of a state institution shall be appointed by the BOR "upon the recommendation of a duly constituted search committee." Who can the institution turn to when the BOR itself ignores the guidance of the search committee, and ignores the objective criteria for choosing the next president?

The ungreening of the world

WORLD VIEW

Joan Maloof

EVERYONE I MEET CLAIMS TO LOVE TREES—I mean really love trees—yet collectively the human race behaves as if it abhors green things. If you take a step back from whatever biome or ecological community you are in at the moment and look at the entire Earth and its forests through recorded history, you will see that the relationship between humans and trees looks "Strangely Like War" (the title of a recent book on forests by Derrick Jensen and George Draffan).

The exact extent of the damage is difficult to discern, because for many years records were not kept, but the estimates are that 75 percent of the world's original forests have been logged or burned by humans. Some of them have grown back, of course, or have been replanted, but it is thought that we now have only half of the amount of forest land we once had on this planet.

In some places, particularly the drier places of the globe, the deforestation was so severe, and was followed by such intense grazing, that forests have not been able to grow back. The landscape has been permanently altered.

When you imagine Greece, Italy and Iraq, it is likely that you imagine a dry landscape with open views, the way they look today. Historical records indicate, however, that these places were once covered by dense forests. The forests fell as civilizations flourished, so the earlier a place became "civilized" the sooner it became deforested.

This march of so-called progress resulting in the loss of forests was documented by John Perlin in his 1989 book "A Forest Journey."

So today we sit on a planet with only 50 percent of its forest cover remaining. And here's the part that should bring tears to your eyes: we continue to lose more forest cover every year.

The more recent losses are well documented. Every five years, the United Nations produces a summary report called "Global Forest Resource Assessment." The team in charge of assembling the assessment relies on Internet reporting and satellite surveillance to come up with the figures. According to the most recent report, between 2000 and 2005, we lost forest acreage equivalent to the land mass of Panama—more than 77,000 sq km of forest gone, some of it never to return.

The next report is due to be released in 2010. I will not be surprised to read when it is released that the global forest area has continued to shrink.

If this happens when we claim to love trees, I shudder to think what would happen if we were ambivalent about them. Or thought we could live without them.

In the United States, deforestation began as soon as the colonies were settled. Before long, the colonies were exporting wood to the many nations that no longer had the timber they needed for ships, casks, shingles and other construction materials. Trees were also cut to clear cropland, provide heat and the fledgling nation was using up its forests to build its own ironworks and railroads as well.

By 1920, more than three-quarters of the original forests in the United States had been cut. Similar to the global figures, today the United States has only half the forest cover that it had in 1600. And we continue to destroy forest land.

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, it was agreed that "efforts should be undertaken towards the greening of the world." The UN recognizes that "forests are essential to economic development and all forms of life." But the UN Charter also reads: "States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources." And so we do.

Although the UN and my country recognize the value of forests, both ecologically and economically, such recommendations are not strong enough to stop my local council from voting "yes" to deforestation. Last week, I went to a zoning meeting in the town where I live. A real estate housing project developer wanted to cut many acres of trees so he could build houses. That forest land will be lost, probably forever, and a few more numbers will be added to the global deforestation total next year.

Why do local politicians, tree lovers all, allow yet more forest destruction? Why do humans all claim to love trees, but their actions deny their claim? I think it has to do with fear. When a would-be exploiter of trees stands before a politician and requests, or demands, the right to clear a forest, the politician, out of fear, complies. But we do not fear trees. We do not fear their retaliation.

Trees stand mute despite our betrayal. Perhaps that is one of the reasons we really love them.

But if we want to do more than love them, if we want to save them, we must become fearless.

Project Syndicate

Joan Maloof is the author of "Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest." She teaches biology and environmental issues at Salisbury University in Maryland, USA.

Smart or popular?

YOUNG BLOOD

Daria Anne Q. Mendoza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NERDS IN SCHOOL, and they all tell the same story: There is a strong correlation between being smart and being a nerd, and an even stronger inverse correlation between being a nerd and being popular. Being smart seems to make you unpopular.

Why? For someone who is still studying, that may seem like an odd question to ask. The key to this mystery is to rephrase the question: Why don't smart kids make themselves popular? If they're so smart, why don't they figure out how popularity works and beat the system just as they do the standardized tests?

In the schools I went to, being smart didn't matter much. Other kids didn't admire it or despise it.

So if intelligence doesn't boost one's popularity, why are smart kids so consistently unpopular? The answer, I believe, is that they don't really want to be popular.

But if someone had told me that earlier, I would have laughed at him. Being unpopular makes a kid's school life miserable. Some of the kids felt so miserable that they dropped out or, worse, hurt themselves. Telling me that I didn't want to be popular would have seemed like telling someone dying of thirst in the desert that he didn't want a glass of water. Of course, I wanted to be popular.

In fact I didn't, or I didn't want it badly enough. There was something else I wanted more, which was to be smart. And that meant not just doing well in school, though that counted for something, but also designing powerful rockets, or writing well, or knowing how to program computers. In general, making great things.

I never tried to separate my wants and to weigh them against each other. If I had, I would have seen that being smart was very important. If someone had offered me the chance to be the most popular kid in school but at the price of having below-average intelligence, I wouldn't have taken it.

Much as they suffer because of their unpopularity, I don't think many nerds would either. But most kids would take that deal. For many of them, it would be a step up.

And that, I think, is the root of the problem. Nerds serve two masters: they want to be popular, but they want even more to be smart. And popularity is not something you can do in your spare time, not in the fiercely competitive environment of a secondary school.

The main reason nerds are unpopular is that they have other things to think about. Their attention is drawn to books or the natural world, not fashion and parties. While nerds are being trained to get the right answers, popular kids are trained to please.

Few smart kids can spare the time that popularity requires. Unless they also happen to be good-looking, natural athletes, or siblings of popular kids, they tend to be nerds. And that's why smart people are most miserable between the ages of 11 and 17. At that age, popularity seems to be all-important. No wonder, smart kids are most unhappy in intermediate school and high school. Their other interests leave them with little time to work on their popularity, and since it is a zero-sum game, this makes them targets for the whole school.

Nerds who are still in school should not hold their breath, but maybe one day a heavily armed force of adults might rescue them. But they probably won't be coming this month. Any immediate improvement in the nerds' lives is probably going to have to come from the nerds themselves.

Merely understanding the situation they're in should make it less painful. Nerds aren't losers. They're just playing a different game, a game that is much closer to the one played in the real world. Adults know this. It's hard to find successful adults who don't claim to have been nerds in high school.

It's important for nerds to realize, too, that school is not life. School is a strange, artificial thing, half-sterile and half-feral. It's all-encompassing, like life, but it isn't the real thing. It's only temporary, and if they look, they can see beyond it even while they're still in it.

Daria Anne Q. Mendoza, 15, is a senior at the Sta. Mesa Parochial School and editor in chief of their school paper.

Slowpoke

Gia C. Guiyab

DIFFERENT PERSONS ATTACH DIFFERENT MEANINGS TO certain words, and because of this, we cannot always assume similarity in people's perception of things and events.

"Slowpoke" is a term that has always been associated with me. At home, the people I live with notice the lethargic pace at which I perform minor chores or simple tasks. My parents always make it a point to remind me to follow their instructions, but they do so in the most encouraging tone. They are most concerned about my sluggishness because they believe that the dawdling or painstaking pace at which I perform some household chores is indicative of the slow rate at which I accomplish my duties beyond their sight.

I can understand their concern, and I have made it one of my lifetime goals to provide a little relief for their anxieties. In fact, I have grown to appreciate and value their frequent reminders and constant nagging. Realizing that remaining a slowpoke would get me nowhere in a fast-paced and demanding society, I have promised to myself that I will abandon my penchant for taking my time and delaying things.

My close friends are daily witnesses to my intense and slow nature. However, having known me for more than half of my life, they also know how arduously I have been battling my mortal enemy, procrastination. But no matter how much effort I exert to overcome it, it has always succeeded in manipulating me. Cramming to finish school projects, papers and simple assignments was my style as I went through high school. And I paid a heavy price for it: I had to stay up late when these things were due, which sometimes gave me severe migraines or colds or both. Nevertheless, by the miracle of prayer, I was always saved by the bell.

My friends also know how much I strive and struggle now to finish my work quickly and do my responsibilities as fast as I can without sacrificing excellence. Like I said, that has been my goal and maybe if I persist and persevere I will achieve it yet.

Gia G. Guiyab, 19, is majoring in marketing at De La Salle University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

RP justice system deserves a place in Guinness book

NEAL H. CRUZ, IN HIS JUNE 5 column, hit the nail right on the head. Our justice system is the world's slowest, second to none, and should earn an eminent place in the "Guinness Book of World Records." May I add that our judicial process has also earned a place in "Ripley's Believe It or Not" as the only judicial system in the world whose code of ethics is totally disregarded by lawyers.

In fact, Filipino lawyers are considered to be the best legal technicians and "miracle workers" who could fabricate anything under the sun—from court documents to decisions—as they seek to absolve their clients from accountability.

Ours is the only justice system in the world where Lady Justice is, figuratively speaking, not in blindfold; neither is she holding a balanced scale. In the local setting, Lady Justice's hands face toward heaven not certainly for divine guidance but for earthly blessings from the beneficiaries of court decisions.

It is sad to note that millions of Filipinos are victimized by "court Merlins" who fabricate complaints and judicial proceedings with impunity. In his speech during the oath-taking of new lawyers, Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban made it clear that he is totally aware of this serious social cancer.

So, let us adopt the jury system. Justice is the basic law of democracy. Without a jury system, which mandates the direct involvement of ordinary folks in determining the truth on common-sense questions of fact brought before the courts, our democratic institutions will be mere cosmetics to our democracy. With the jury system, we hasten the process of an authentic justice delivery system which everyone can truly trust.

It's a pity that no one among our present senators and congressmen has expressed interest in legislating a jury system for our country. For more than two years now, we have been endorsing such a system to them. Their silence and indifference to our proposal give us the impression that adopting the jury system, which will be patterned after the US model, will work against their interest as it will end their political advantage and control.

Is there no one among the 80 million Filipinos who is prepared and audacious enough to pursue this advocacy? Shall we all simply endure and submit to a notorious judicial system that disposes cases after 30 to 50 years of dragging, thus leaving those cases to outlive the parties, the judges and lawyers involved therein?

Heaven help us!

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,
president,
Coalition for Consumers Protection & Welfare Inc.,
104 Gaiety St.,
Better Living, Parañaque City

Accidents waiting to happen in Edsa-Ayala tunnel

AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN, I'M calling the attention of the government authorities concerned to two perpendicular walls that protrude into the South-bound lane of the Edsa-Ayala tunnel. The walls pose a danger to motorists and, not surprisingly, they have caused accidents. Official records show the following:

1. In 2004, the walls triggered six accidents. In one case, 14 people were injured, not to mention damage to property.
2. In 2005, there were 71 accidents in that area. One of those resulted in the death of one person. In six other cases, six people suffered physical injuries.
3. Between January and June of this year, there were 35 accidents.

In other words, more than a hundred accidents happened in the past two and a half years resulting in death, physical injuries and damage to property. Very alarming.

We were told that the tunnel was designed by a Japanese consultant. The cost of modifying the tunnel must be charged to him and he must be forever barred from getting involved in any project in this country from now on. He should be held responsible for this tunnel's faulty structure and all the harm it has caused.

The Metro Manila Development Authority, the City of Makati, the Department of Public Works and Highways and Congress should act on this matter very quickly. The defectively designed tunnel must be modified immediately to make it safe. It is high time that we paid serious attention to the safety of the public. Safety is everybody's concern.

I am also calling on the media, particularly the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the INQUIRER, GMA Network Inc., "Imbestigador," "Saksi," etc. to look into this issue.

Let us not wait for the next accident to happen.

—ROJETO C. SAMSON,
former provincial board member,
Batangas

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Doubts raised on abolition of death penalty

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's signing of the law abolishing the death penalty stands out in stark contrast with her all-out war against the New People's Army.

Perhaps, as a gesture of goodwill, she signed the bill to show to the whole world and Pope Benedict XVI that the Philippines, the bigger of two Catholic countries in Asia, abhors death penalty. But before that, she released an additional P1 billion to be used by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in its war against the NPA.

Whether we like it or not, this P1 billion will only litter the battlefields with countless more casualties not only from the ranks of the NPA, but also from the ranks of the military and innocent civilians.

While I am for the abolition of the death penalty, I cannot in conscience support the President's decision to uselessly spend an additional P1 billion to have more of her countrymen killed. This move of the President calls to mind a vow she made in Baguio City—that she was not running for the presidency in 2004 to spare the nation from further divisiveness. But as it turned out, she broke that promise.

She "won" but Filipinos, generally, are not sure of the legitimacy of her victory due to alleged, massive cheating.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

Academic degrees do not a leader make

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE supposed "furor" of the PNU (Philippine Normal University) community over the appointment of former Gov. Lutgardo Barbo as its new president. What the PNU students and officials (specifically those who have resigned) can't seem to realize is that Barbo, beyond anyone else, is the best suited and most qualified for the job.

I am a native of Eastern Samar. I am currently studying in one of the universities here in Manila (not PNU). I can vouch that Barbo, during his term as governor of our province, implemented reforms and programs that brought dramatic improvements to our impoverished province.

That was about 10 years ago, and I was a kid then; nonetheless, I was, and still am, very much aware of his achievements as a great leader because of his programs' tremendous impact on everyone's life. He spearheaded one of the most successful programs in solving the decades-old problem of communist insurgency in our province by convincing the rebels to return to the government's fold. And the list of his feats is a long one.

All his constituents know that as a leader, he led a frugal and simple life, unlike some, if not most, of our past and present leaders who continue to enjoy luxurious and extravagant lifestyles. His administration was the quintessential paradigm of honest and decent governance—he restored the people's trust in public service during his tenure. And I would say this with confidence: he was one of the best governors we ever had.

After his stint as governor, he held various governmental positions, and since then he has retired from the political arena. He was that warm fellow, the Senate secretary, during President Estrada's impeachment trial, who zealously performed his duties amid the frenzy and tension of that proceeding.

All this I am telling the world, and the PNU community in particular, not because I am a big political supporter of Barbo. All this is to say that a person doesn't need a myriad of scholarly degrees and appellations to be an effective leader.

—GERS G. ESCOTO JR.,
Maydolong, Eastern Samar

Why the ruling elite are not keen on fighting graft and corruption

IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT Philippine politics has become the breeding ground for deceivers, thieves and killers. It explains why our leaders don't have the political will to fight graft and corruption in the system.

We must realize that our values were corrupted in no time at all by our colonizers who imbued our social consciousness with the sins of elitism. Consider how we regained our "independence" 60 years ago—with our leaders making deals with the colonial masters to ensure that they and their families will be able to widen their spheres of power and to enlarge their wealth. The "deals," of course, enabled the Americans to continue influencing government decisions and exploit our natural resources.

How could we progress in our own country with foreigners meddling in our affairs? Made under the cloak of friendship and alliance, the deals proved detrimental to local business, particularly to our agriculture and trade industries. And now, Charter change, which is being railroaded, is not meeting much opposition because our people are being kept ignorant of the kind of leadership the elite provided our people under that "alliance."

But the alliance shows we have not regained true independence—certainly not the kind our forefathers dreamed of—one that would have placed us on equal footing with the rest of the world. Remember that we had this chance when the Senate voted to end the presence of American bases in the country. But this came to naught because the elite would not be deprived of their lust for American-made goods. The elite's "American taste" is what the Arroyo administration has been protecting for five years now with the Visiting Forces Agreement.

What kind of nation are we if we cannot make our laws work for our people's good? Some elitists would even have us believe that penalizing crooked public officials would adversely affect business in the country. Who are they trying to fool?

Elitism has always been the obstacle to the solution of our poverty problem. The government has no political will to fight graft and corruption because the ruling elite and their wealthy backers and allies are deeply mired in it. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says unity is the only solution to our problems because she wants us to forget the abuses and failures of her leadership.

Lest we forget, we are in this predicament because GMA has paid the generals in the military and police establishments—the "protectors of the people"—to silence political dissenters so that she can tell the world that she has everything under control.

Of course, there were other "solutions" applied, but what we have cited here is enough to show that we are self-destructing because the bad leadership and the hedonistic tendencies we acquired under the "alliance" have made us lose our moral vision.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

GSIS sincere in helping pensioners?

IN HER RESPONSE TO THE LETTER of Antonio B. Borja, re the need to readjust GSIS monthly pensions to the present economic realities (PDI, 6/24/06), Ella Valencerina, vice president for public affairs of the Government Service Insurance System, only succeeded in raising more questions about the GSIS' sincerity in attending to its pensioners' plight.

She pointed out that the GSIS has shown genuine concern for the pensioners by increasing pensions every year; and that under its new policy, the previous cap on old age pensions has been lifted so that retirees can now receive monthly pensions up to 90 percent of their last salary, plus entitlement to annual increases. But that's true for recent retirees only.

What about the vast majority of pensioners who had retired much earlier? Their retirement benefits were initially based on their average monthly compensation in the last three years prior to their retirement—considered adequate then but very low by present-day standards. True, the GSIS gives annual increases, but such increases can hardly be felt nowadays.

Upon the request of many pensioners, I sent a letter to GSIS president Winston Garcia in late November last year, appealing to him to do something for them. I invited his attention to Sec. 4(k) of RA 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003), which mandates that the "retirement benefits of retirees from both the government and private sectors shall be regularly reviewed to insure responsiveness and sustainability, and to the extent practicable and feasible, shall be upgraded to be at par with the current scale enjoyed by those in the service."

I told Garcia that in keeping with this mandate of the law, it is "practicable and feasible" for the GSIS to upgrade pensions to more realistic levels because—according to his report last year, which was published in all major newspapers in the country—the GSIS is the country's most profitable GOCC (government-owned and controlled corporation). It had a net income of P36 billion in 2004, which it believes to have been matched, or even surpassed, in 2005.

Much to my disappointment, I received a very late reply from a junior level officer, Artemio Molina Jr. who, instead of focusing on the core issues I raised, had the nerve to tell me that requests for pension increases cannot be initiated by any group, association or individual, but only by the GSIS management; besides, pensioners are much better off than those still in the service as they are not subject to withholding tax and other compulsory deductions.

My disappointment is not so much about the denial of my appeal but on Molina's arrogance and puerile line of reasoning. So I begin to wonder how sincere the GSIS really is in helping the pensioners.

—EDUARDO B. LEJANO,
10 First St.,
St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City

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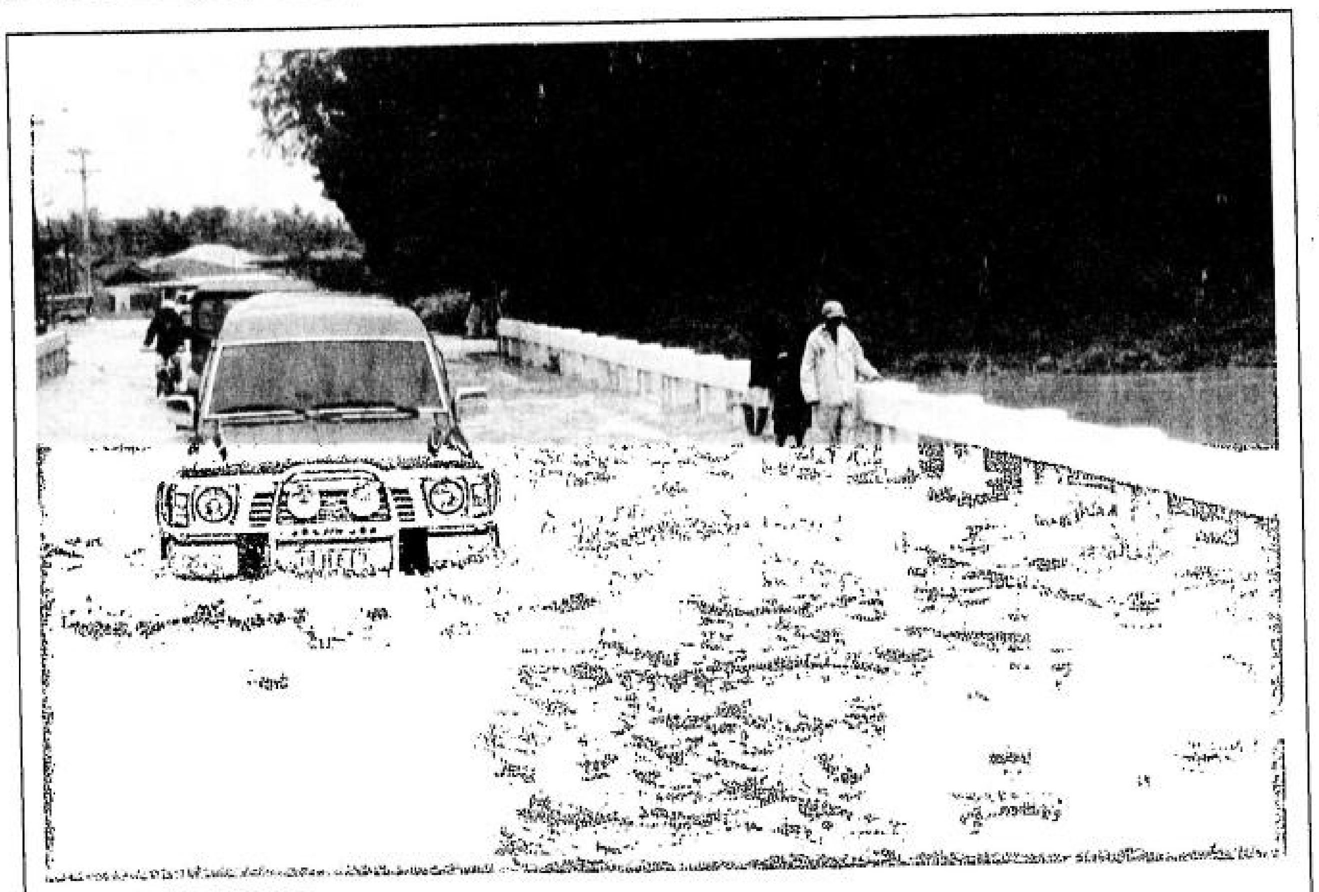

FLORITA'S FLOOD
Heavy rains caused by storm Florita on Thursday caused the overflowing of the Maramba Bridge in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.
RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Evacuees return to burned homes

COTABATO CITY—SOME RESIDENTS FROM AT LEAST FIVE Maguindanao towns, who fled days of hostilities between militiamen controlled by Gov. Andal Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels, have started to return home, a Catholic priest working for the evacuees, said on Friday.

But many of them have no more houses to return to because these were razed during the clashes, according to records gathered by government agencies, the MILF and the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT).

At least 237 houses were burned during the intense fighting based on government data furnished reporters here.

MILF ceasefire committee chair Von al-Haq said the government should help rebuild the houses so that returning civilians would have something to live in.

"As a gesture of compassion, we call on [the government] to immediately help these civilians rebuild their shattered homes," al-Haq said.

He said even with food assistance in evacuation centers, civilians still preferred to live in their own homes.

Fr. Bert Layson, OMI, of the Mindanao People's Caucus, agreed by saying those who lost their homes were now living and sleeping in makeshift structures along the Maguindanao-General Santos highway away from crowded evacuation centers.

Layson said those who still have houses to return to have resettled but their important belongings remained unpacked.

"Anticipating the resumption of hostilities, some of them had their personal belongings and valuables ready in carts," he said of the situation in Barangay Iganagampong in Shariff Aguak town, one of the centers of the clashes.

The skirmishes started on June 28 when Ampatuan's militiamen stormed an MILF camp in pursuit of rebel commanders linked to the June 23 explosion that killed seven people in Shariff Aguak.

The explosion, caused by a powerful roadside bomb, occurred as Ampatuan was passing by. Four of those killed were in a car trailing Ampatuan's vehicle.

Authorities said the attack was aimed at Ampatuan, whose son Datu Piang Mayor Saudi Ampatuan, was killed in a similar attack in 2003.

Last week, Ampatuan and the MILF agreed to a ceasefire to allow about 30,000 civilians to go home.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Soldier in Pagadian radioman's slay yields

PAGADIAN CITY—THE ARMY SOLDIER linked to the Jan. 20 killing of radio commentator Rolly Cañete here yielded on Wednesday, police authorities said yesterday.

Zamboanga del Sur police chief Supt. Ramon Ochotorena said the surrender of Sgt. Herbert Liguan, a military intelligence agent under the Army's 1st Infantry Division, came following a series of negotiations between the police and military officials.

Liguan, 46, and a resident of Bayog town, was positively identified by Rolando, Cañete's son, as the one who shot and killed his father.

But Liguan's colleagues told the INQUIRER that the soldier was innocent and that he was a victim of a frame up.

They did not elaborate but suspected politics was behind the identification of their colleague as the gunman.

Cañete, 65, hosted two government-paid programs over stations dxPR and dxBZ here. He was the information officer of Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles.

Rolando was driving his father to the provincial capitol when he was shot.

Rolando had told investigators that the suspects were riding in tandem on a single brown Kymco motorcycle.

He said the gunman alighted from the motorcycle and finished off his father, who fell on the ground.

He described the gunman as "heavy built, about 5'9" in height, with fair complexion, wore a body fit t-shirt, sunglasses and a bonnet on his head."

"I can identify the gunman since I saw his face because he removed his sunglasses when he fired the last shots," said Rolando in his affidavit.

When photos from the police's rogue gallery was presented to Rolando, he pointed to that of Liguan.

Liguan was not a usual suspect in crimes committed in the city and the fact that his photo was in the police's files had become some sort of a puzzle for some, including reporters covering the police beat.

On May 30, Judge Renerio Ramas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 18 issued a warrant of arrest against Liguan.

Since then, negotiations between the police and the military were held for the peaceful turnover of the suspect.

Ramas told reporters that the Cañete murder case could "now go on trial" following the surrender of Liguan, the main suspect. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops raid safe houses of Batangas 'Mafia'

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—AGENTS OF the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and Special Action Force arrested 15 persons in simultaneous raids on four alleged safe houses of a dreaded criminal group in Batangas on Friday.

Among those arrested during the dawn raid were brothers Arthur and Ronald Blanco, and Nilo Bantugon Jr., said CIDG Director Jesus Versoza.

Arthur is the village chief of Barangay Balagtas while his brother is the chief of nearby Barangay Banaba.

Versoza said the two and some of their alleged henchmen were arrested inside their homes while Bantugon Jr. was taken in his father's house in Mabini town.

The suspects allegedly belong to the Bantugon Group, a faction of the dreaded Batangas-based Black Shark Gang.

"This group is the Mafia of Batangas and the whole Calabarzon region. It's the biggest group of criminals in the region," said Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, head of the CIDG's Criminal Investigation and Detection Division.

Bantugon's father was the supposed leader of the group involved in hijacking, protection racket, oil pilferage, assassinations and gunrunning.

Recovered from the houses were over two dozen M16 armalite rifles, .45-cal. pistols and other high-powered firearms. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Meningococcemia watch

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Health authorities here were closely monitoring family members and neighbors of two boys, who died of suspected meningococcemia at the D.O. Plaza Memorial Hospital early last week and last month. Provincial health officer Dr. Joel Esparagoza said they have already sent personnel from the Rural Health Unit of Prosperidad town to Barangay Los Arcos, where one of the victims lived. He said those who came in close contact with the boys were given antibiotics. Esparagoza said they have also coordinated with the provincial health office of Surigao del Sur about the other patient, who hailed from Barobo town.

Chris Panganiban, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 die in blast

COTABATO CITY—At least two person were killed while several others were wounded when a grenade exploded inside a jeepney traversing the highway along the Libungan-Banisilan route in North Cotabato on Sunday. Capt. Magid Buisan of the Army's 38th Infantry Battalion identified the casualties as jeepney driver Antonio Ferolino, 18, and Eva Bañas, 54, a resident of Alamada, North Cotabato. Buisan said the jeepney was traversing the highway in Alamada when it was flagged down by six armed men. The driver, he said, refused to pull over. Buisan said one of the gunmen, apparently irked by the driver's behavior, hurled the grenade onto the speeding PUJ. The suspects immediately fled.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cops nab felon

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested one of the most wanted criminals in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) region in Bebito, Lopez, Quezon on Wednesday. A police report said Lito Alibanto alias Bryan/Lito, a resident of Barangay Lutucan, Sariaya was ninth in the regional police's list of most wanted persons and carried a cash reward of P250,000 for his capture. Alibanto was long wanted for the crime of rape with homicide and robbery.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Jueteng clarified

CALAMBA CITY—Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez has ordered a crackdown on all guerrilla operations of jueteng in the province since three months ago. A few days after Sanchez directed Batangas police director Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro to arrest those operating and maintaining the illegal numbers game, suspected bet collectors were arrested in Tanauan City and Lemery town. This clarifies an INQUIRER report yesterday that "Sanchez refused to say what he was doing to stop jueteng in Batangas." Sanchez also disclosed during an interview with the INQUIRER that he was hoping that the proposed small town lottery franchise in Batangas would eventually lead to the death of jueteng in the province.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA rebs shoot dead Iloilo cop

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—SUSPECTED COMMUNIST rebels shot dead a policeman inside the public market of Tubungan town in Iloilo, 41 km south of here, yesterday morning.

SPO1 Hilario Vicente, finance officer and radio operator of the Tubungan police force, died from bullet wounds in his lower jaw and back of the head after two gunmen repeatedly shot him inside a meat shop, police reports said.

The gunmen along with two others, who acted as lookout, approached Vicente at around 10:30 a.m. as he was talking with meat butchers inside the shop.

The gunmen drew handguns believed to be a .45 cal. pistol and a 9 mm handgun from shoulder bags they were carrying as they approached the victim.

One of the suspects said in the dialect: "We're just going to get someone," before they shot Vicente.

The suspects took Vicente's 9 mm pistol before walking towards the back of the market and to Barangay Bacan in the town proper, according to the police report.

At least seven more armed men believed to be companions of the suspects were seen near Barangay Bacan.

Members of the Philippine National Police's 1st Mobile Group and the Tubungan police force conducted pursuit operations after the shooting.

New People's Army (NPA) rebels also attacked the town in June last year wounding two policemen including the town's police chief.

The rebels overrun the police station manned by 12 policemen and took eight M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, two 9-mm pistols and a .38 caliber revolver.

The rebels were believed to be part of the NPA's Napoleon Tumagtang Command in southern Panay, which is led by the Southern Front Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Panay Island.

Tubungan is among the towns considered by the military as traditional hotbeds of the communist insurgency. The rebels previously launched minor attacks in the town in recent years.

Task Force Panay commander Col. John Bonafos said the periodic rebel attacks in Western Visayas were "just meant to show that they are still present."

In a statement released last month, the CPP and the NPA in Panay belittled the government's two-year deadline to crush the 38-year-old insurgency but warned of its effects on civilians.

The NPA's Coronacion Chiva "Waling-Waling" Command said President Macapagal-Arroyo would surpass the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos as "the biggest and most effective recruiter" of the NPA.

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

It's time to talk, says Macho

By Alex Pal
Dumaguete City

IT USED TO BE A FEMALE-DOMINATED SUBject matter but now, more and more men are getting interested in it.

A group calling themselves the Men Advocates and Champions for Reproductive Health Options, or Macho, a group of vasectomized men and male advocates of reproductive health in Negros Oriental, is gaining popularity in the province.

The group is led by Ayungon Councilor Joveleo Acabal, 34, with the municipal health officer, Dr. Irving Dingcong, as adviser.

"I don't care if I lose votes. We have left the issue of family planning to women for a long time. It's time men talked to men about reproductive health," Acabal told a group of men in Tanjay City in one of their recent forums.

Acabal cited studies showing that women had an unmet need for family planning. One survey showed that while most women only wanted one or two babies, they ended up having more because they did not know how to manage their reproductive health.

"Our mission is to talk to men of the need to plan families with their wives," he said.

Members of Macho, organized by the province's population office in November last year, are actively engaging other husbands in various towns and cities.

To date, they number 24, including a barangay chair, a municipal councilor, and presidents of non-government organizations and people's organizations in the towns of Ayungon, La Libertad, Siaton and Zamboanguita.

Acabal attributed the success of his group to various factors, such as the adoption of a non-confrontational attitude with the Roman Catholic Church and the strong support of the local leaders.

For politicians, population issues have put them in a bind. Tanjay Mayor Baltazar Salma told the forum that politicians wanted their voters to increase, but as responsible individuals, they did not want the population to grow rapidly.

Salma said he was happy to note that men were becoming more open in talking about reproductive health.

"Tanjay has a strong reproductive health program and we even received awards for this program, but most of those who attend our fora are women," he said.

Provincial population officer Jeanette Villarubia said the Machos' ability to discuss reproductive health issues had improved with every forum.

Dingcong said the men were now more involved in family planning in view of the impending pullout of foreign support for the family planning program in the Philippines. For 30 years, the Philippines has been supplied with foreign support for contraceptives and this will end in 2007, except for the supply of the intrauterine devices (IUDs), he said.

He encouraged local government officials to earmark funds for the supply of family planning commodities in their areas.

National initiative

However, a noted economist has pointed out that while there may be successful population management initiatives in some towns and cities in the country, the initiative for a population management policy should come from the national government.

Prof. Ernesto Pernia of the University of the Philippines' School of Economics said local government units did not have any initiative to implement such a program because a decrease in population could also mean a decrease in their Internal Revenue Allotment and in the number of voters.

Speaking in a recent forum on poverty, population growth and overfishing in Manila organized by the Path Foundation Philippines and the Integrated Population and Coastal Resource Management (Ipopcorm), Pernia said it was time the national government came to an understanding with the Church on the critical need for a sound population policy as what had long happened in other Catholic countries.

There can be no real development in the Philippines unless the government addresses the population issue, he said.

Good family planning programs have been attributed for the economic growths of Thailand and Indonesia, countries that once lagged behind the Philippines.

According to Pernia, Thailand's poverty incidence has fallen to 9.8 percent and Indonesia to 18.2 percent, in contrast to the Philippines' 30 percent. In the case of Indonesia, where governance and corruption ratings were reported to be worse than that of the Philippines, it shows that a good population policy by itself can contribute to significant poverty reduction, he said.

Ukraine, Iloilo theater groups foster ties

UKRAINIAN actor and interpreter Maryna Kuklina with fellow student Kateryna Savenkova sign autographs and interact with their Ilonggo counterparts after the closing ceremony of the "Theater for All: Workshop of Drama Schools" at the University of San Agustin grounds on May 19, 2006.

PHOTOS BY HAZEL VILLA

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

> *The stage but echoes back the public voice.*
> *The drama's laws the drama's patrons give,*
> *For we that live to please, must please to live.*
> —Prologue at the Opening of Drury Lane by Samuel Johnson

DINAGYANG COUNTRY IS never lacking for theater and drama workshops, nor could its citizens claim a dearth of quality plays and cultural shows that are a dime a dozen here any time of the year.

Such is the active state of Ilonggo theater that it takes something different to make drama students and patrons, thespians, and culture aficionados take a second look. That was exactly what they did when the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theater, Cinema and Television (KKK) came to Iloilo all the way from Kiev, Ukraine.

The KKK participated in the "Theater for All: Workshop of Drama Schools," a cultural-educational cooperative workshop and performance, in conjunction with the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI) World Congress.

The workshop carried the theme, "Ancestral Roots to New Artistic Routes of Expression: Mobilizing Cultural Diversity to Achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals."

The Unesco-ITI World Congress, participated by 11 nations that included the Philippines, was held in Manila on May 20-29, in conjunction with the UN Celebration of Cultural Diversity and Development Week.

Part of the foreign delegates' activities was to hold workshops, give pocket performances, and exchange insights with local theater groups and school-based groups in a Philippine city where they are assigned.

Special attraction

In Iloilo City, the 10-member delegation of the KKK was the special attraction of the May 18-19 drama workshop, sponsored by the University of San Agustin, the city government and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The visitors performed "The Lesson" by Eugene Ionesco and "Tartuffe" by Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, better known as Molière, at the university's Conference Room.

It was theater that transcended barriers. Though they were speaking in Ukrainian, the Ilonggos understood the story line because of the excellent acting, considering that the KKK, as its brochure said, has had more than 40 awards in different national and international art events and functions in the past decade.

"The movements were so studied that it was easy to follow the story. "The Lesson' was in the genre of the Theater of the Absurd, but the way they (KKK actors) did it was just amazing," said JP Liboon, 27, an Ilongga actress and director who is the current toast of local theater circles for her masterfully directed and popular productions.

Theater teacher and director Edward Divinagracia, one of the workshop organizers, said the Ukrainian actors' performance was beyond his expectations. At their age (early 20s), "they manifested skillful projection and expertise in handling their characters as well as the effective use of body, voice and emotions," he said.

"The actors' voices are trained to be in harmony with their body movements and also in contrast with the body. The effect is impeccable onstage," added Liboon.

Heading the KKK group were Prof. Oleksiy Bezgin, university rector, and Yuriy Visotskiy, a teacher.

The Ukrainians also held exercises that mostly focused on the finer points of acting and the use of the voice and body movements as related to acting.

Aside from the obligatory heritage and museum tours, the KKK group went to the University of the Philippines in the Visayas where anthropologist Dr. Alicia Magos gave a talk on Ilonggo-Panayanon culture.

Brilliant future

The delegation also watched performances by the Little Theater of the University of San Agustin, Teatro Entablado of the Iloilo National High School Special Program for the Arts, and the Teatro Primero of the Western Institute of Technology.

What did they think of the Ilonggos and their first-ever trip to the Philippines?

"Our trip here is very pleasant. It is a pleasure to work for such a very open-minded audience. The students were an inspiration and the people are ready to accept the stage," said Oleg Ternoyvi, 20, one of the KKK actor-students.

The 54 student-participants to the workshop were comfortable bantering and chatting with their guests who kept fellow student and translator Maryna Kuklina, 21, busy interpreting for the Ilonggos and her compatriots.

Drawing much applause during the open forum after the performance of "Tartuffe" on the last day of the workshop was the invitation of the KKK to organizer Eric Divinagracia to pursue his master's degree in their university.

UKRAINIAN actors Oleksi Cherevatenko and Kateryna Savenkova of the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theater, Cinema and Television from Kiev, Ukraine perform "Tartuffe" by French dramatist Molière at the University of San Agustin Conference Room, Iloilo City.

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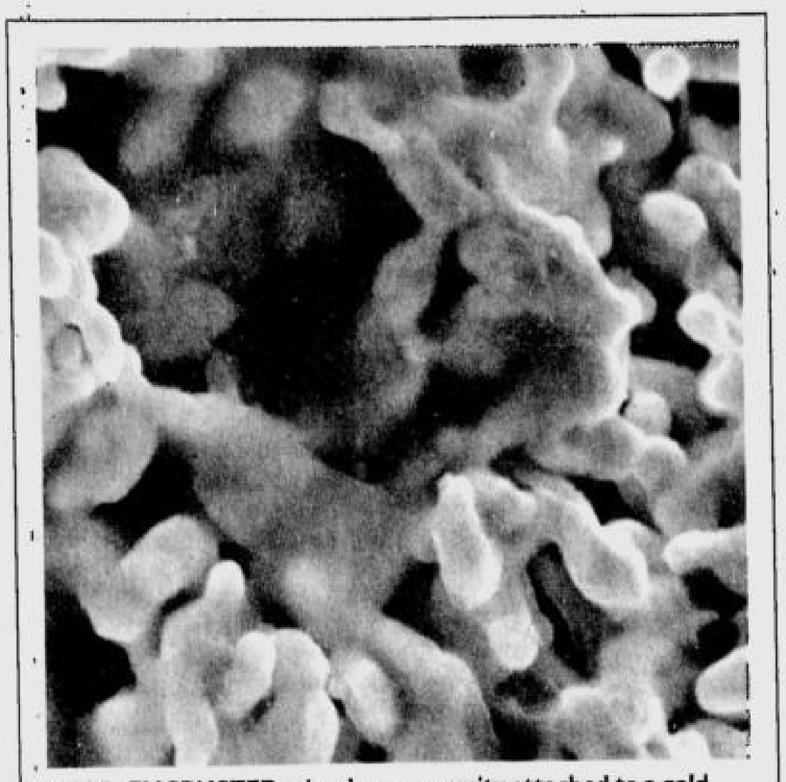

GOLD-ENCRUSTED microbe community attached to a gold flake as seen through a scanning electron microscope.

AUSTRALIA'S COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Midas touch: Bacteria can turn dust to gold

From page A1

US-based magazine Science suggest a bacteria known as Ralstonia metallidurans may play a key role in forming gold nuggets and grains.

A group of scientists led by German-born researcher Frank Reith collected gold grains from two Australian mines more than 3,000 kilometers apart, and discovered that 80 percent of the grains had the bacteria living on them.

"What we found out suggests that bacteria can accumulate this gold," Reith told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his Australian office on Friday.

Reith said Ralstonia metallidurans act as microscopic soil scrubbers, soaking up heavy metals in their dissolved form and converting them into less toxic, solid forms.

"Heavy metals are toxic, not only to us but also to microorganisms, in elevated concentrations," he said.

"It appears to be that the organism can detoxify its immediate environment of this toxic mobile gold and in this way gain a metabolic advantage," he said. "That's why it would be present on these gold grains."

Many scientists have questioned the possible microbial role in forming gold, maintaining instead that gold grains were either remnants of larger pieces or formed through chemical processes.

Can't create gold

Reith said his findings provide the strongest evidence yet that bacteria could play a key role in creating solid gold, although the exact mechanism is not yet known.

"What we just wanted to show is that microorganisms are capable of contributing to the formation of gold nuggets and before that was always doubted," Reith said. "I'm not saying that the organisms are the only way how gold nuggets in soils can form, but it's one of the ways."

But home-alchemists be warned, pouring a bucket of Ralstonia metallidurans on your backyard won't create a gold mine.

"You have to have gold there first. If you don't, bacteria can't create gold," Reith said. *AP*

'Nicole's' 'cross' done in 40 minutes

From page A1

Justiniano told reporters that the defense panel's tack was not necessarily a sign of overconfidence. "To win a case, you don't really rely on cross-examination but on the strength of your own evidence," he added.

Private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua expressed relief that Nicole's "ordeal" was "brief" and the cross-examination was "surprisingly short."

"They were not able to impeach Nicole, and that means her testimony was not destroyed," Ursua said.

"And that's very significant because they were not able to destroy even one point of her testimony. And when the defense fails to impeach a witness' testimony, that means the court should accept [the testimony] as weighty," she said.

Ursua said the prosecution had expected the defense, or at least the counsel of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, to grill Nicole intensely given her clear testimony on what the 21-year-old soldier had allegedly done to her.

"That was why we did not have any other witness today. We thought the cross-examination would spill over to next week ... Maybe they just could not get anything out of our client," she said.

Credibility

Only Patricia Formoso, who assisted her father Benjamin in defending Smith, questioned Nicole, mainly to test her credibility as well as her memory of the night of Nov. 1, 2005, when the alleged rape occurred.

But Formoso tackled, not the alleged crime, but how Nicole purportedly got herself drunk at the Subic Bay Freeport's Neptune Club, where she first met Smith on the dance floor.

The lawyer also brought up Nicole's having at the time an American boyfriend named Brian Goodrich—also a US Marine based in Okinawa—and, at one point, asked her if she had harbored a "dream" of going to the United States.

"It's not really a dream. I just want to live with my fiance," Nicole said.

Formoso also made her admit that she did not tell her boyfriend that two other US servicemen—Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills and a Carlos Ocasio—were paying for her and her siblings' lodgings when they all took a vacation in Subic.

(Nicole previously said that Mills and Ocasio—whom she described as family friends back in her native Zamboanga City—invited her and her two sisters to Subic, and that Mills gave them money to bet at a casino and also paid for their drinks at the Neptune.)

Formoso also asked Nicole to remember how many minutes passed between her consumption of the six different alcoholic drinks that made her "dizzy."

'Why would I bother?'

But Nicole said she would not know because she did not bother to count the minutes.

"Why would I bother? We were drinking and I didn't care about the time," she said in Filipino.

Formoso further probed: If Nicole really got that drunk on that night, would she remember collapsing on the floor? Did she need help to walk straight?

"I don't know" was Nicole's reply to both questions.

But Formoso was forced to withdraw certain questions upon the objections made by Ursua, with Judge Pozon upholding her.

In one question that Ursua succeeded in blocking, Formoso tried to establish that Nicole "went straight" to executing an affidavit on her alleged rape at Subic's Intelligence and Investigation Office because she got "angry" with the female doctor who took her urine sample at the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City.

(By Nicole's earlier account, that doctor sneered at her rape story and remarked that "maybe you liked it." She also complained that the doctor attended to a pregnant woman first although Nicole, her sister and their IIO escort got to the hospital much earlier.)

Ursua argued that there was "no connection" between the two episodes—and Pozon agreed.

Formoso even asked Nicole what "language" her American boyfriend spoke.

The question not only caused Pozon himself to ask what was its relevance, but also drew chuckles from Nicole's supporters in the gallery.

10 hours

"If it were my client who was pinned down, my cross-examination would have taken 10 hours. If it were my client, 30 minutes or an hour of cross-examination would not be enough," Ursua said, pointing out that the defense did not even touch on Nicole's testimony on what had happened inside the rented Starex van.

Testifying on direct examination, 22-year-old Nicole had identified Smith as the man who forced her out of the Neptune and raped her while she was dead drunk inside the moving van.

She had told the court that Smith kissed her on the lips and neck and caressed her chest even while she struggled.

While she had no memory of the actual intercourse, Nicole had said she confirmed the rape after she found her pants on in reverse when she regained consciousness on the pavement where the soldiers had allegedly dumped her, and when she felt pain in her genitals after the effects of alcohol had dissipated.

Because Nicole's testimony remained intact despite the cross-examination, Ursua no longer conducted redirect examination.

Clarifications

It was Judge Pozon who made some clarifications with Nicole.

First, he asked why the complainant was weak at the time she tried to fight off Smith inside the van. (Nicole had testified that she repeatedly tried but failed to push Smith away as he pinned her down on the van's seat with his weight.)

"I was already drunk at that time and my body was losing strength," Nicole said.

Pozon then tried to see if the complainant remembered what happened between the time Smith was kissing and touching her inside the van, as she had testified, and the time she found herself with her pants down, front side back.

"I don't know. All I know is that my pants were already on in reverse that time, " said Nicole, referring to the time strangers found her at Subic's Alava Pier, where the soldiers allegedly dumped her before dashing to their ship, the USS Essex, docked nearby.

The judge then asked Nicole about the voices she heard inside the van during Smith's alleged assault: "Were you able to tell where the voices were coming from?"

Nicole: "No. I was not able to notice that because I was struggling."

Pozon: "You said you heard music. Do you know where the music was coming from?"

Nicole: "I don't know. All I know is I heard some music."

'In what manner?'

The judge then focused on the alleged sexual assault: "You said Smith touched your breasts [while in the van]. In what manner did Smith [do that]?" Pozon asked the complainant.

Nicole: "I don't remember, sir."

Next, Pozon asked if Nicole remembered the manner with which Smith, as she had alleged, forced kisses on her lips and neck while she struggled.

Nicole: "All I remember is that he kissed me."

Pozon then asked Nicole about what she told the Neptune's security guard when she returned to the bar to look for Smith after the alleged rape.

"When you told the guard that Smith did something bad to you, what is that 'something bad' you were referring to?" Pozon said.

Nicole: "Rape. I just could not tell the security guard at the time because I was ashamed. I am not proud to tell people that I was raped."

Filipino driver

For their 21st witness, Ursua said, the prosecution will present next week Timoteo Soriano, the Filipino driver of the hired van.

Public prosecutor Elizabeth Berdal said that contrary to earlier reports, Soriano had not "actually gone into hiding."

Soriano last figured prominently in the case during the preliminary investigation, when he submitted an affidavit recanting his original statement to the IIO and claiming he was only coerced by an investigator into mentioning "gang rape" in the first document.

Oil price nears $80 ...

From page A1

bank Calyon. "In the end, geopolitical risk is about a current supply disruption getting worse or a new one happening."

Dealers said oil prices now looked set to break $80 soon, with the upcoming September contract already quoted at above $79 as the market tightens on a series of geopolitical concerns from the Middle East to North Korea.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in August, was quoted at $77.95 per barrel, up $1.25 from its most recent settlement of $76.70 in New York.

Oil prices pushed higher still to hit an all-time high of $78.40 in after-hours electronic trade before some profit-taking took it off the top.

Brent North Sea crude for August delivery was at $77.75, just off its high of $77.76.

"It seems like hitting $80 a barrel is inevitable," said Victor Shum, a Singapore-based analyst with energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz.

"We're in unchartered territory. It is a result of a confluence of a number of geopolitical events in a tight market that shows healthy demand growth.

"The factors are getting together in a tight market, and we haven't even got our first hurricane in this US hurricane season, so pricing is going to remain strong."

Shum said oil at $100 a barrel "is still quite a bit off from where we are today (but) there is certainly the potential for it to hit that."

Local conditions

"In the Philippines, some prices are out of proportion, like services of electricity and water utilities," Chua said. "This is worrisome if charges translate to the downgrading of workers' minimum wages."

Chua said the uptrend in oil prices would not unduly raise local electricity prices since a large portion of power supply was generated using indigenous resources like natural gas, water and geothermal energy.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the oil price surge was not so unusual considering that winter in the Northern Hemisphere was approaching.

Dee said that at times like these, businesses simply took the usual actions to adjust, that is, refrained from increasing the prices of goods and services and taking losses.

"But we hope that global oil prices stabilize because we are having a hard time," he added.

Transport sector

Jesus L. Arranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said the rise in prices of oil did not necessarily mean a great increase in the prices of local commodities since transport expense was not a substantial part of production costs.

"What we are worried about is if this would be reflected in electricity prices although we do not expect this," Arranza said. "The increased use of hydropower plants during this rainy season should compensate for the oil price surge."

He cited a recent announcement from the National Power Corp. that it would soon lower prices because it would be using its hydropower plants more.

"We hope distribution utilities like the Manila Electric Co. would buy more supplies from Napocor and immediately reflect lower prices in their billings," Arranza said.

But the transport sector and motorists, already battered by the almost weekly increases in the prices of fuel products, face unwelcome additional charges.

According to Melot Obillo of the Department of Energy Oil Industry Management Bureau, local prices increase about 31 to 33 centavos per liter for every dollar increase in the price of the regional benchmark Dubai crude.

This means that with local prices of gasoline ranging from P41.29 to P43.56 per liter, a dollar increase in Dubai oil prices would push prices up to P41.6 to P43.9. Current diesel fuel prices ranging from P35.79 to P37.78 will increase to between P36.1 and P38.1 per liter.

No oil shortage

Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah said there was no shortage of crude oil in world markets, also blaming geopolitical tensions for the surge to record-high prices.

"The main thing is that we see that there is no shortage in the market at all," he told reporters. "Speculators are using the geopolitical situation to their benefit and we are seeing how the oil prices are reacting."

Qatar is the smallest producer in Opec. The 11-member group has been powerless to stem oil's rally as rising world demand has used up much of the group's reserve production capacity.

In Nigeria, two suspected explosions at a crude pipeline operated by Agip, a unit of Italy's Eni, caused oil spills, Nigerian officials said. Eni denied reports of sabotage and extensive oil spills and said damage would be repaired soon.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc. has already had to shut down 473,000 barrels per day of Nigerian supply, almost a quarter of output in Africa's top oil supplier, due to attacks by rebels.

Dozens of civilians were killed Thursday as Israeli jets pounded Lebanon in retaliation for the capture and killing of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah guerrillas, igniting fears of a wider Arab-Israeli conflict. *Reuters, AFP and Ronnel Domingo*

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PRC admits leakage in nursing exams

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION has admitted that there was a leakage of test questions in the June 2006 Nurses Licensure Examination and blamed two members of the Board of Nursing for the leaked questions.

In a statement, PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero said its fact-finding committee has traced the leak to the manuscripts of two Board of Nursing members which PRC did not identify.

Rosero said the two erring board members would be penalized and administrative charges would be filed against them.

"This leakage irregularity shall be referred to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for its own investigation and determination of all the persons and parties involved and their prosecution under the law," Rosero said.

The leakages in the nursing exams were first exposed by Baguio nursing graduates who saw photocopies of an 18-page document that contained handwritten test questions and answers.

Photocopies

The photocopies were distributed by the R.A. Gapuz Review Center to its nursing licensure applicants, who had shared their copies with some of the complainants.

Deans of nursing schools in Baguio City and 91 of their graduates are seeking the suspension of the nursing board members and licensure test results until an independent fact-finding body can unearth alleged irregularities in the exams.

Nursing school deans of St. Louis University (SLU), Easter College and the University of the Cordilleras (UC) on Friday said they have evidence linking other review schools to the licensure exam leakages.

They urged the PRC to immediately refer evidence implicating the two nursing board members to a more credible and independent investigative body.

Deans Maria Grace Lacanaria (SLU), Ruth Thelma Tingda (Easter College) and Norenia Dao-ayen (UC) said the investigating body should include members of the Philippine Nurses Association, NBI, the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing and the PRC.

The PRC has asked the Board of Nursing and officials of the R.A. Gapuz Review Center to respond to the complaints on Tuesday.

Leakage

As this developed, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration warned that the leakage in the nursing exams could taint the credibility of entire government-sponsored testing system and affect the image of all Filipino professionals going out of the country.

POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz said that as a result of the scandal, the government's lobbying to host the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses of the United States has been experiencing difficulties.

"We're not being favorably considered to host the NCLEX due to alleged forgeries and fraud in the licensure examinations. This has tainted the credibility of our nursing [board] exams," Baldoz said. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Jerome Aning in Manila*

Mayon Volcano spews lava; alert up

LEGAZPI CITY—MAYON VOLCANO yesterday suddenly spewed trickles of lava, prompting the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to raise to 3 the alert level around the volcano.

Volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta said alert level 3 meant there was a slight potential of eruption that could affect areas within the 6-km danger zone.

He said the spewing of detached fragments, or lava, was technically considered a silent eruption that could affect the foothill areas of Bonga, Buyuan, and Padang.

"But there's nothing to worry about since it would take days or weeks before a major eruption will happen. It will remain at alert level 3 as long as the (spewing of) these particular detached fragments of lava continues," he said.

Mayor Noel Rosal immediately went to the affected villages to monitor the situation. *Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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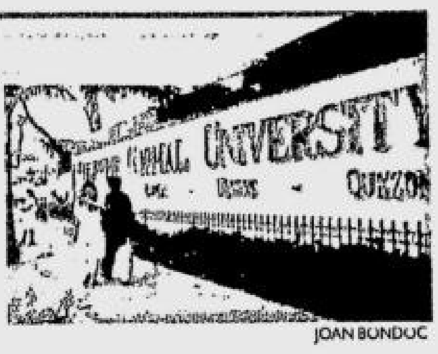
▨ **PNU teachers, studes** accuse school officials of harassment /A20



JOAN BONDOC

Atienza aide suspect in driver's slay

Minor traffic dispute led to shooting, say witnesses

By Tina G. Santos

AN ASSISTANT OF MANILA MAYOR LITO Atienza is being hunted by the police for allegedly killing a jeepney driver Wednesday night in Tondo.

Suspect Jose "Noli" Sugay, who, Atienza admitted was one of his special assistants at City Hall, allegedly killed Aries Luriz, 27, of Coral Street, Tondo, over a petty traffic disagreement.

Atienza said he ordered the police yesterday to investigate the incident. "I told Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Gen. Pedro Bulaong I wanted a thorough and impartial probe of what actually happened," Atienza said.

The mayor added Sugay should present himself to the police to answer the allegations.

"As of now, there has been no complaint filed against him. These are all just accusations aired in the media. *Pero dapat na siyang magpakita bago pa siya sampahan ng kaso, lalo na ngayon na nakakaladkad na ang pangalan niya, kung may kasalanan siya harapin niya,*" Atienza added.

An investigation showed the incident happened around 6 p.m. at the corner of Coral and Dagupan Streets where the suspect's and the victim's vehicles were parked.

Witnesses said Sugay, who was reportedly visiting a friend and was accompanied by a bodyguard, got irked that Luriz's jeepney was blocking his car, a Toyota Fortuner (ZCG 783).

Sugay, who reportedly introduced himself as a policeman, and Luriz got into a heated argument. The suspect allegedly pulled out a gun and shot Luriz in the head.

The victim died while undergoing treatment at the hospital, police said.

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, chief of the MPD Homicide Division, said a team was dispatched to arrest the suspect who, according to City Hall employees, had not reported for work since Thursday.

Police said relatives of the victim, particularly the mother who reportedly witnessed the incident, had yet to give their statements to authorities.

City Hall insiders, who refused to be named, said Sugay, reportedly the son of the secretary to Manila Mayor Antonio Villegas in the 1960s had figured in several unpleasant incidents in the past. They also refused to deny or confirm if the suspect was the same Noli Sugay, identified in news reports in the past as Atienza's special assistant and Lakas party member, who had been accused of manhandling his alleged victims.

Displaced settlers ask for more time

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NOT NOW.

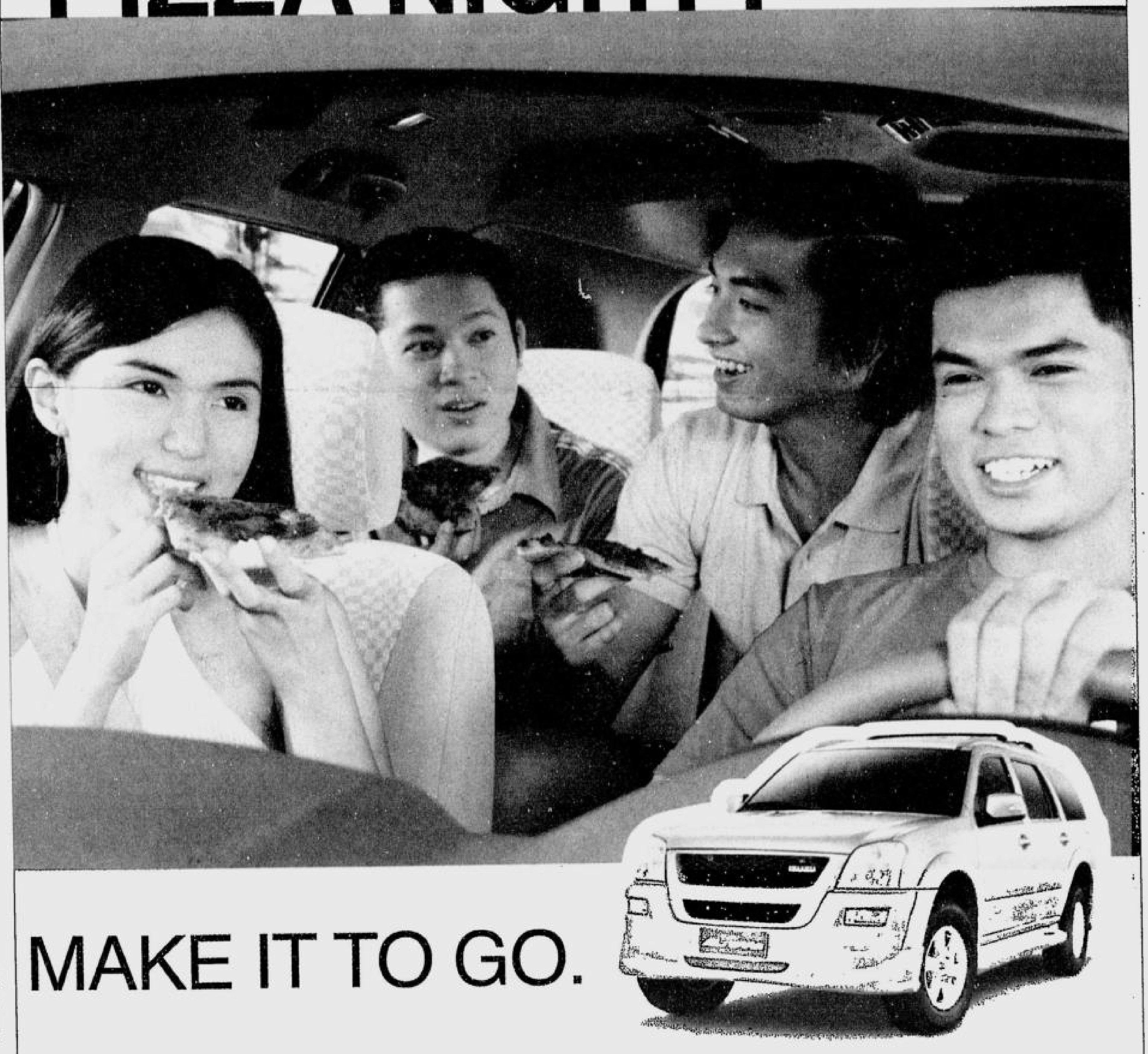
This was the appeal of residents of Tonsuya, Malabon City to the owner of the 5.8-hectare piece of land they had been occupying since 1986 not to continue demolition efforts in the area for the meantime.

Tension gripped the community of informal settlers yesterday when at least 50 men arrived unannounced in the area and told residents that they would put up a blockade around the property supposedly owned by one Francisco Gozun.

The residents, displaced by a fire that broke out on Monday, are now living along Letre road beside a creek that had overflowed because of heavy rains spawned by typhoon "Florita."

"What we are asking for is a proper relocation site before we are displaced again," said their leader Antonio Criss.

PIZZA NIGHT?



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Witnesses in Makati slay urged to come forward

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE SHOOTING OF A MAKATI PUBLIC SAFEty officer on Wednesday morning remains a puzzle as no witness has come forward so far.

Makati police chief Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio said yesterday no one had come forward to shed light on the shooting of Felicisimo Enriquez.

The victim worked as an investigator of the Makati Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Cooperation

"I am seeking the cooperation of witnesses, especially colleagues of the victim, because they would play a big role in solving this case," Valerio told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Around 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Enriquez, a resident of Barangay Carmona in Makati City, was waiting for a ride on A. P. Reyes Street in Barangay Tejeros when three unidentified armed men shot him dead.

Valerio said there were many witnesses as the incident happened when people were on their way to work.

He added the police were considering two possible angles behind the slaying.

Withholding details, Valerio said it could have something to do with a family problem.

Job-related?

Another angle they were looking into was that it could be related to Enriquez's job as DPS investigator.

Enriquez handled mostly traffic violation cases, police said.

The police chief said investigators would also look into a possible link between the slaying of Enriquez and the shooting of former barangay council member Edilmar Pancipane in March.

Three unidentified assailants were also involved in the earlier incident.

Cop arrested for death of colleague

By DJ Yap

A POLICEMAN ASSIGNED TO the Regional Special Action Unit of the National Capital Region Police Office allegedly shot dead a colleague early yesterday in Quezon City.

PO2 Ricante Santiago was arrested after the shooting of PO1 Rodrigo Villarta on a footbridge at the corner of Edsa and Aurora Boulevard in Cubao.

The victim and the suspect, both assigned to the Light Rail Transit 2 Anonas Station, met as they both walked on the footbridge at past 1 a.m., police said.

Without warning, Santiago allegedly pulled out his service firearm, a 9 mm pistol, and shot Villarta repeatedly, hitting him in various parts of the body including the head, said case investigator PO1 Rogelio Basbas Jr.

The victim died instantly. Santiago tried to flee but was arrested by barangay watchmen who heard the gunshots, the investigator said. The motive for the killing was not known. The suspect and the victim were known to be friends, Basbas said.

Police Senior Inspector Maja Orilla inspected the crime scene and recovered two 9 mm pistols.

Santiago is now detained at the criminal investigation division of the Quezon City Police District, while Villarta's body was brought to the crime laboratory for autopsy.

Cancellation of Joc-Joc's visa goes deeper

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF FORMER AGRICULTURE SECretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante is sent back to the Philippines and he spills the beans on some administration people, an ensuing scandal that would erupt might be worse than the one created by the "Hello Garci" tapes.

When that time comes the opposition and the critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo won't have to do anything but let events unfold at the Senate.

The Senate is investigating a supposed fund scam with Bolante on center stage. Bolante will have a hard time explaining how he disbursed the P728 million supposedly intended for farmers. The President's detractors claim the money was spent to buy votes. Some people in the administration must be having sleepless nights over Bolante's arrest in the US.

* * *

The cancellation of Bolante's visa was upon the recommendation of the US Embassy in Manila. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., a good friend of America because of his late father's closeness to the US, made the request to the US Embassy for the visa cancellation. There is more to that visa cancellation than what was reported.

A FATHER and his son try to cross the flooded Tumana Bridge in Marikina after going fishing. RAFFY LERMA

Marikina bridge closed to motorists

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE AND RESCUE OFFICIALS ADVISED motorists yesterday not to cross the narrow Tumana Bridge in Marikina City.

Heavy rains the past few days caused the Marikina River to overflow, drowning the 80-meter long bridge connecting Marikina to Quezon City.

"We have already put up a sign before the bridge saying it is not yet passable," PO2 Rafael Teope of the Barangay Concepcion Uno Police Community Precinct told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Rescue officials said the water would probably subside today or tomorrow.

Rescue officer Mike Gomez said the water level in the river rose to at least 13.6 meters, covering the bridge altogether.

He said the river's "normal" level was between 11-12 meters.

In August 2005, strong currents knocked an FX taxi off the bridge, when the driver decided to cross the bridge despite the swollen river.

The body of the 56-year-old driver was found three days later about a kilometer from the bridge.

Tumana Bridge, built in 1994, connects Farmers Avenue in Barangay Concepcion Uno and the Loyola Grand Villas Subdivision, which exits near the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The swollen river claimed another life the other afternoon when a 27-year-old man drowned after he tried to swim in a creek in Barangay Malanday that led to the river.

PO2 Albert Zeller told the INQUIRER that Ryan Enriquez, 27, jumped into the creek near his house about 12:30 p.m. Thursday.

His neighbors saw him disappear. His body floated after an hour.

Quoting neighbors, Zeller said Enriquez did not know how to swim.

METROBRIEFS

Not quiet on PNU front

SOME faculty members and students of the state-run Philippine Normal University yesterday claimed that were being harassed for continuously opposing the appointment of lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as their new president. Barbo's camp reportedly threatened to expel student leaders who continue to hold protest activities against the university's newly appointed academic leader. "They are being asked to write a letter of apology apparently for staging protest activities, including rallies and holding a noise barrage. They are being threatened with expulsion if they refuse," one professor told the INQUIRER. Laine Hernandez, leader of the Movement for the Advancement of Student Power, said she, along with three others, were summoned to the Office of the Student Affairs (OSA) on Tuesday to explain why they conducted a rally last week. "Our point is, why do they have to ask us to report to the OSA and explain? That's clearly a case of campus repression. We just voiced out our concerns, and that's everybody's right," she said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER. Teachers who work on a contractual status are being asked to sign a statement of support for Barbo or are warned that their contracts would no longer be renewed, according to one professor. "They approach teachers who have not yet been hired on a permanent status," another professor added, saying the threats are initiated "subtly." Sought for comment, Barbo denied the allegations. "Not true, there's no basis for that," he told the INQUIRER, but quickly added that those opposed against him should act within certain parameters, saying they are guided by rules and regulations of the university. "Within an academic setting, there are rules that have to be followed," he said. "Besides, there is a certain committee which decides whether or not a member of the faculty is qualified for permanent status. The issues concerning students who have been holding rallies, on the other hand, are being handled by the OSA," he said.

Tina G. Santos

Felipe D. Velasquez; 53

FELIPE D. Velasquez, brother of Winnie Velasquez, Malaya Lifestyle editor and Gina V. Rodriguez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, passed away at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 13. He was 53. He is survived by his mother Linda Dorotheo Velasquez; his other brothers and sisters, Jose Eduardo; Ricardo; Anna V. Gonzales; and Rowena; brothers- and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces. Velasquez's body lies at St. Paul of the Cross Parish Church Rainbow St., SSS Village, Marikina City. Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Wednesday, July 19.

PCU nursing lecture postponed

DUE TO inclement weather, the Librada Topacio Javalera (LTJ) Memorial Lecture organized by the Philippine Christian University-Mary Johnston College of Nursing scheduled tomorrow has been postponed to August 26. The lecture carries the theme "Paradigm Shift in Nursing Practice: Its Global Effect," with noted nurse Dr. Annabelle Borromeo as resource person. The event is organized by the PCU-Mary Johnston College of Nursing and the PCU-MJCN Alumni Association as part of the yearlong centennial celebration of the nursing institution. The lecture is also a tribute to the exemplary leadership and character of Javalera, postwar dean of the PCU-MJCN who committed her tenure to academic excellence, professionalism, discipline, and the spiritual nurturing of its students. For details, call 245-0806 or 245-0824.

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India names new suspect in train bombings

BOMBAY, INDIA—INDIAN AUTHORITIES on Friday named a third suspect in this week's train bombings in Bombay, as the local media said the well-coordinated attacks that killed 200 people were planned by Pakistan's main intelligence agency.

Bombay Police Commissioner A.N. Roy said a man known only as Rahil was the third person being sought in connection with the eight blasts in Bombay's commuter train network during the evening rush hour on Tuesday.

The government's Anti-Terror Squad Thursday night had released photos of two other suspects, Sayyad Zabiuddin and Zulfeqar Fayyaz. Their nationalities were not given, nor was it clear where the photos of the two young, bearded men originated.

Investigators gave few other details. Officials say they suspect the Pakistan-based Islamic militant group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, which operates in Kashmir, the Himalayan territory at the center of the long-running India-Pakistan conflict.

A Lashkar-e-Tayyaba spokesperson, Abdullah Ghaznavi, has denied the group was involved.

But several Indian newspapers reported on front pages Friday that Indian intelligence agencies have told the government that the attacks were planned by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

The respected New Delhi-based Hindustan Times quoted an unidentified intelligence source as saying that the explosions have all the "hallmarks" of an ISI operation.

The government's National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan "pointed a finger at Pakistan" during a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, The Indian Express said.

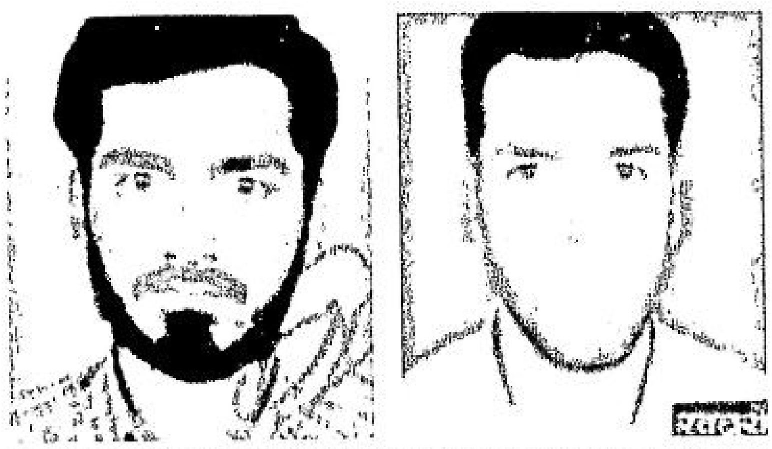

IMAGE from New Delhi Television shows Sayyad Zabiuddin (left) and Zulfeqar Fayyaz, said to be the key suspects in Tuesday's blasts in Bombay. Authorities on Friday named a third suspect as local media said the attacks were planned by Pakistan's main intelligence agency. AP

Given that all newspapers carried similar unattributed reports, it appeared the allegation originated from a single source in the government. It is common in India to blame the ISI after any terrorist attack.

Pakistan did not immediately respond to the charge, but consistently denies stoking terror in India or fanning militancy in Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan. Both nuclear-armed countries claim the entire territory and have fought two wars over it since their independence from Britain in 1947.

On Wednesday, the Indian government had demanded that Pakistan dismantle all terrorist networks on its part of Kashmir.

Roy, the Bombay police chief, said the two suspects named Thursday had been on the run since mid-May, when authorities arrested three suspected Muslim insurgents and seized large quantities of arms, ammunition and plastic explosives after a long highway chase in western India's Maharashtra state. Bombay is its capital.

The seizure included 30 kilograms of RDX explosives, 10 AK-47 assault rifles and 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

News reports at that time had said the arrested men were Lashkar-e-Tayyaba members.

Lashkar has in the past used near-simultaneous explosions in Indian cities, including an October attack in New Delhi that killed more than 60 people. The group was also named in a 2001 attack on India's parliament.

On Thursday, a man claiming to represent al-Qaida reportedly claimed the terror network had set up a wing in Muslim-majority Kashmir, where Islamic militants have been fighting for years for independence from predominantly Hindu India or union with mostly Muslim Pakistan.

There was no way to immediately verify the al-Qaida claim. If true, it would be the first time Osama bin Laden's network has claimed to have spread into Indian territory. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran defiant after nuclear case goes back to UN

TEHRAN—Iran said on Thursday it would not abandon its right to nuclear technology in a defiant statement after Tehran's case was sent back to the UN Security Council over its atomic dispute with the West. But US President George W. Bush kept up the pressure saying Tehran could not "wait us out" and Germany warned "other steps" would be necessary if Tehran did not respond to a package to rein in its atomic work. Five permanent Security Council members, the United States, France, Britain, Russia, China, plus Germany backed a package calling for Iran to halt uranium enrichment in return for economic and diplomatic incentives. But on Wednesday they asked the council to intervene after Tehran failed to reply. The West says Iran wants to enrich uranium to produce atomic bombs, a charge Iran denies. It has refused to halt the work. *Reuters*

Cheney, Rove sued in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON—Former CIA operative Valerie Plame and her husband sued US Vice President Dick Cheney, top White House aide Karl Rove and others on Thursday for their role in disclosing her classified CIA employment. The lawsuit alleged "a conspiracy among current and former high-level officials in the White House" to "discredit, punish and seek revenge" against Plame's husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, for publicly disputing statements made by Bush justifying the war in Iraq. The suit was the latest twist in a long-running saga over the public exposure of Plame that put US President George W. Bush on the defensive over his campaign to justify the war and reached into the highest levels of the White House. The lawsuit comes at a time when Rove, Bush's top political aide, seeks to keep Congress in Republican hands in November elections. Rove learned last month he would not face criminal charges in the CIA leak investigation. *Reuters*

Lipitor protected in UK

NEW YORK—Pfizer Inc. has announced that the United Kingdom's Court of Appeals has upheld the exclusivity of the main patent covering atorvastatin, the active ingredient in Lipitor. The ruling affirms a lower court decision in October 2005 that found a proposed Ranbaxy generic would infringe Pfizer's basic Lipitor patent (EP 247,633). The decision prohibits Ranbaxy from introducing a generic version of atorvastatin in the UK before the expiration of the basic patent in November 2011, subject to a possible further appeal to the House of Lords. Pfizer Vice Chairman and General Counsel Jeffrey B. Kindler said: "We are pleased with the appellate court decision, which affirms the lower court ruling on our basic patent for Lipitor. This decision is consistent with the fundamental principle that patents exist to support the work of medical innovators pursuing discoveries that benefit current and future generations of patients around the world."

California emergency

LOS ANGELES—California declared a state of emergency Thursday for southern parts of the state as brush fires engulfed more than 16,000 hectares of mountain scrub land 200 km east of Los Angeles. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office announced the state of emergency for San Bernardino County after flames destroyed nearly 100 buildings in and around dry Yucca Valley while some 1,340 firefighters faced off the flames. "Conditions of extreme peril to public health and safety of persons and property exist within the county of San Bernardino caused by the wildfires," the governor's declaration said. Firefighters said the blaze was only 20 percent contained, and they employed nine air tankers, 12 helicopters and 100 fire trucks in their battle under the searing sun. *AFP*

HOTSHOT crews hold the fire lines of a fire in Morongo Valley, California, July 13. REUTERS

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

LEBANESE citizens help a driver get out of his car stuck in a big crater of mud and water caused by early morning Israeli air strikes on the Hezbollah-stronghold suburb of Dahyieh, July 14. AFP

Israel pounds Lebanon as world urges restraint

BEIRUT—ISRAELI WARPLANES STRUCK AT THE HEART OF Hezbollah's power base in pre-dawn raids Friday after a day of relentless attacks on Lebanon that left around 50 people dead and ignited fears of a regional war.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had ordered the army to intensify the offensive against Lebanon after a barrage of rockets hit towns in northern Israel, including the Mediterranean port city of Haifa, killing three people.

In a wave of strikes early Friday, Israeli jets pounded Hezbollah's command headquarters in Beirut's Shiite-dominant southern suburbs, a power station, bridges and a Palestinian guerrilla base in eastern Lebanon.

Israel on Thursday imposed an air and sea blockade on its northern neighbor and forced the closure of the country's only international airport with a wave of attacks that damaged runways and sent fuel tanks up in flames.

World powers have issued urgent calls for calm after the deadliest violence between Israel and Lebanon in a decade opened up a dangerous new front in the Middle East conflict after a massive Israeli onslaught against Gaza.

Washington said Israel, its closest Middle East ally, had the right to defend itself but urged restraint while several European powers openly criticized the scale of the Israeli offensive as disproportionate.

Envoys from the United Nations and the European Union are being urgently dispatched to the region to try to defuse the escalating crisis while the Security Council is to meet on Friday and Arab foreign ministers on Saturday.

Israel has pointed the finger of blame at Syria and Iran, saying its two arch-foes formed an "axis of terror" along with Hezbollah and Palestinian militant group Hamas, the target of its offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The latest crisis was triggered when Hezbollah guerrillas seized two Israeli servicemen in a deadly attack on the volatile Lebanon-Israel Wednesday, barely three weeks after a similar raid by Palestinian militants on the Gaza border Hamas resulted in the capture of an Israeli corporal.

An Israeli Cabinet minister also threatened to eliminate Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, its military mastermind who has said the two captured soldiers would only be released in a prisoner exchange.

"Nasrallah decided his own fate," Interior Minister Roni Bar-On said. "We will settle our accounts with him when the time comes."

In a sign the Lebanon assault was far from over, Olmert authorized the army "to press on with its operation and hit more targets" after a late-night meeting with top defense officials.

At least 46 civilians in Lebanon, including children and whole families, were killed in wave after wave of Israeli strikes Thursday that hit the airport, Hezbollah targets and areas across southern Lebanon.

After a barrage of rocket attacks against towns in northern Israel that left three dead and 50 injured, two rockets fired from south Lebanon also penetrated deeper than ever inside Israel, hitting its third largest city of Haifa. *AFP*

Thaksin's letters to state leaders called shameful

THAKSIN REUTERS

BANGKOK, THAILand—Opponents of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Friday apologized to Western and Asian heads of state for letters sent by the Thai leader to US President George W. Bush and others that they said contained "false statements."

The People's Alliance for Democracy, which organized mass street protests against Thaksin earlier this year, delivered rebuttal letters to the Chinese and Japanese embassies and planned to deliver more later in the day to the British, French and American missions.

A letter to the Asian and European leaders noted that the anti-Thaksin movement wanted to set the record straight and counter "distortions" and "incorrect information" about Thailand's political crisis that Thaksin may have provided to leaders of those countries.

A separate letter to Bush expressed "shame" that Thaksin felt compelled to explain Thailand's problems to the United States "in a way that makes our country look like a colony of yours."

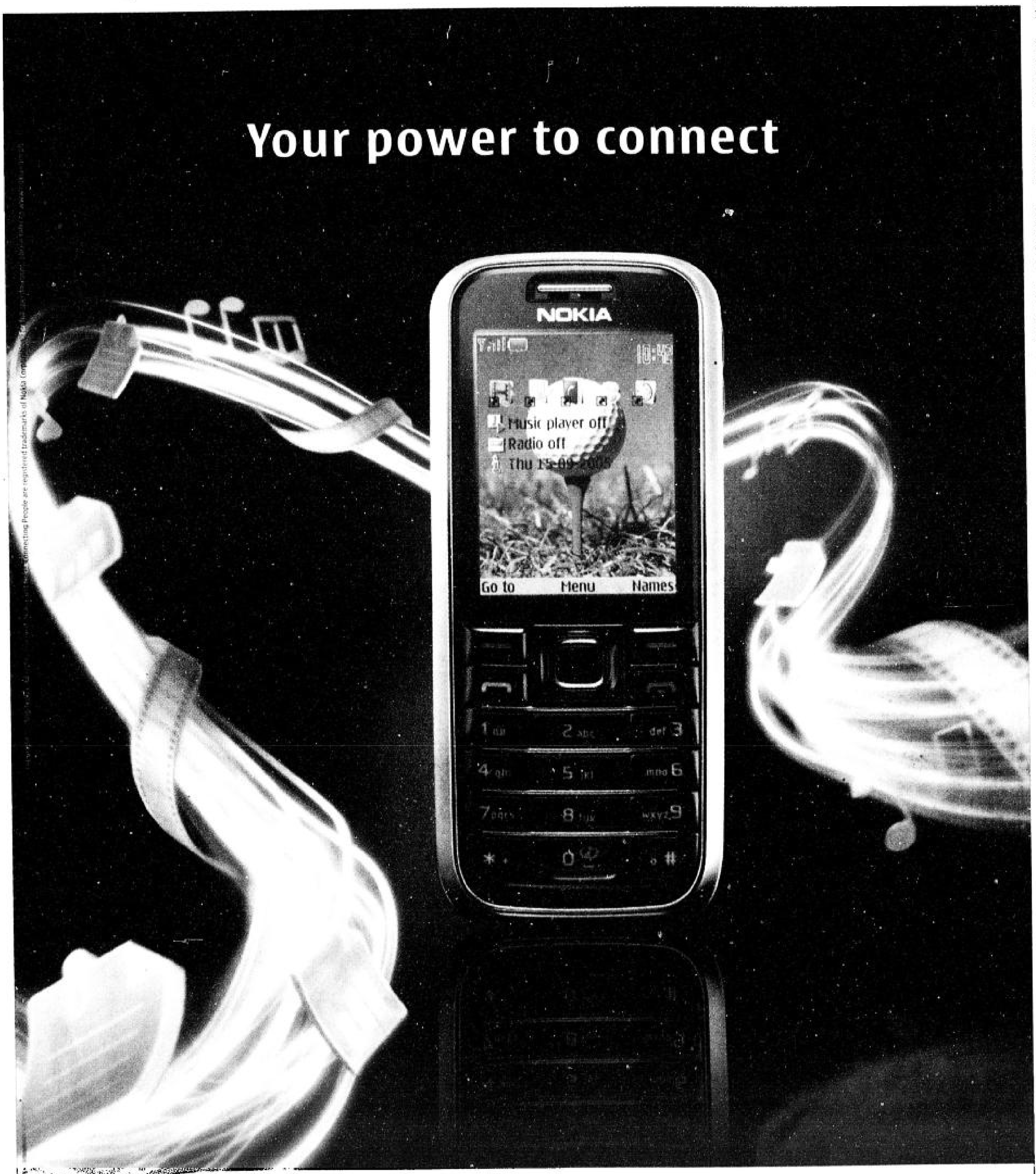
Thaksin dashed off letters to leaders across Asia and Europe earlier this year. During unofficial visits in April, he met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President Jacques Chirac, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

But it was a June 23 letter to Bush that has caused consternation in Thailand. Critics have denounced the letter as shameful kowtowing to Washington and an effort by Thaksin to spin the political crisis so he emerges as the victim.

In the letter to Bush, Thaksin said Thailand's democracy was threatened.

"Having failed to provoke violence and disorder, my opponents are now attempting various extra-constitutional tactics to co-opt the will of the people," he wrote.

Thailand's political crisis started in January when tens of thousands of protesters took to the Bangkok's streets demanding Thaksin's resignation, accusing him of corruption and pointing to financial deals the tycoon-turned-politician has made while in office. *AP*



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SPORTS

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Landis takes Tour de France yellow jersey/A26

Chinese aces give Asia 3-0 lead

Lin, Zhang, Malaysian pair nip Euro rivals

By Musong R. Castillo

GETTING THE LIFT FROM TWO Chinese aces who have been nearly invincible in the last two years, Asia last night dropped just one set in three matches for a commanding 3-0 lead over Europe in the MVP Cup: Asia vs Europe 2 challenge at the Araneta Coliseum.

World No. 2 Lin Dan, the left-handed, spike-haired 23-year-old, came roaring back from a first set loss to post a 19-21, 21-14, 21-10 decision of Europe's Niels Christian Kaldau in the opening men's singles.

Tall countrywoman Zhang Ning later routed Yao Jie of the Netherlands, 21-17, 21-19, in the ladies' singles, before the Malaysian men's doubles team of Choong Tan Fook and Lee Wan Wah overcame Europe's Robert Blair-Robert Mateusiak combine, 23-21, 21-18.

Lin, who has lost just once to a European in his career, forced Kaldau, the Dane ranked 13th in the world, to backtrack when he threatened to charge and had him scampering to retrieve brilliant drops when he waited from the baseline.

The 5-foot-10 Lin has now won 60 of his last 65 matches, dating back to the last 18 months, and his 45-minute conquest of Kaldau just made him a logical choice to be the captain's pick for Asia in the crucial men's singles tomorrow.

"I tried feeling the court in the first set," Lin said through an interpreter in explaining why he flubbed a 9-6 lead in the set. "When I got into rhythm, everything fell into place and I got going."

Starting the second set, Lin, winner of seven of the last 12 IBF Grand Prix events and the one responsible for four of Asia's 10 points last year, seemed unable to make a mistake.

He smashed with authority, ran down drops with reckless abandon and flicked in shots with the touch of a master as Kaldau got undone when the Chinese stormed to a 16-11 lead.

Zhang didn't need a feeling-it-out period against Jie as the reigning Olympic champion came out firing right from the get-go and established her will early.

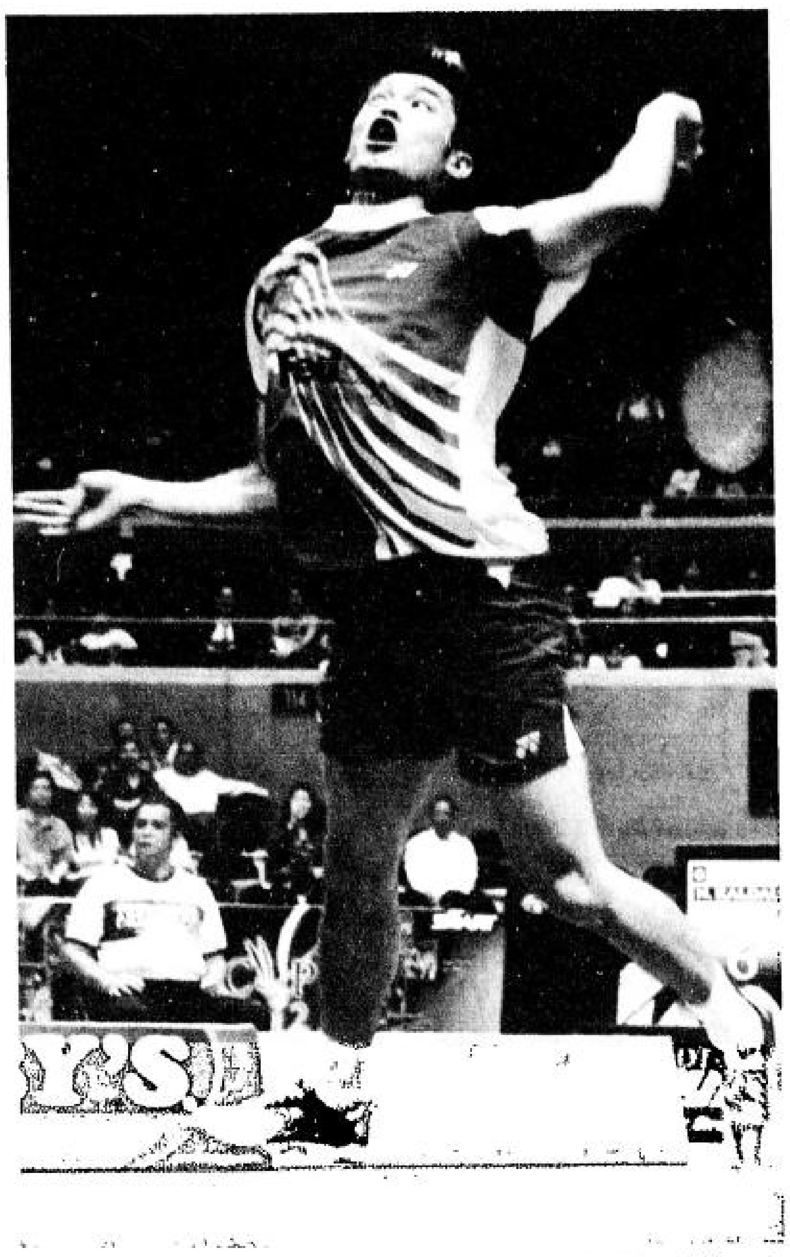
"I was very happy (with the lopsided win), because Yao is a great competitor," said Zhang through an interpreter. "It was a tough match, but I showed a lot of composure out there."

"We did not play that well, we could have done better," said Wah, underscoring their dominance of the Blair-Mateusiak tandem that labored hard when Mateusiak's regular partner, Michael Logosz, withdrew at the last minute due to an injury.

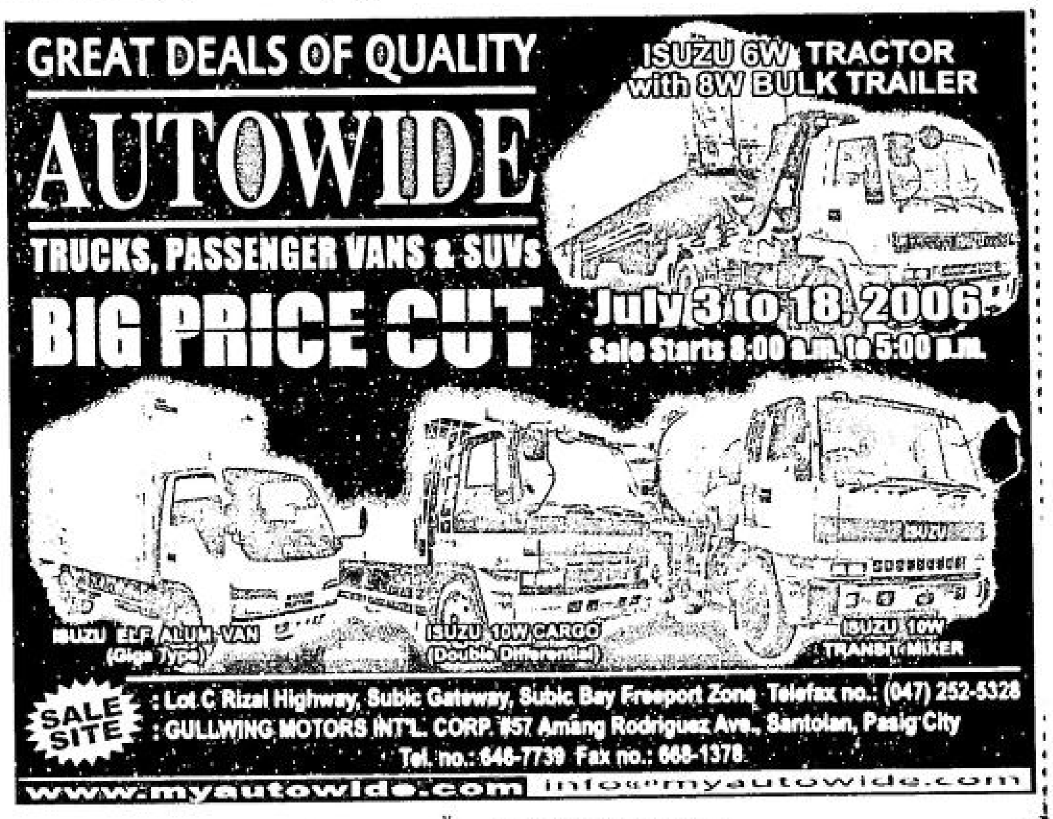
"But I think it would not have made a difference (even if Logosz was there)," Wah added. "We would have come out with the same intensity and determination, and I think we could have also won."

Fook and Wah, Malaysia's most experience pair,

CHINESE/ A24



CHINA'S indomitable Lin Dan smashes a lob by Niels Christian Kaldau of Denmark in the singles. Lin Dan drew first blood for Asia. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



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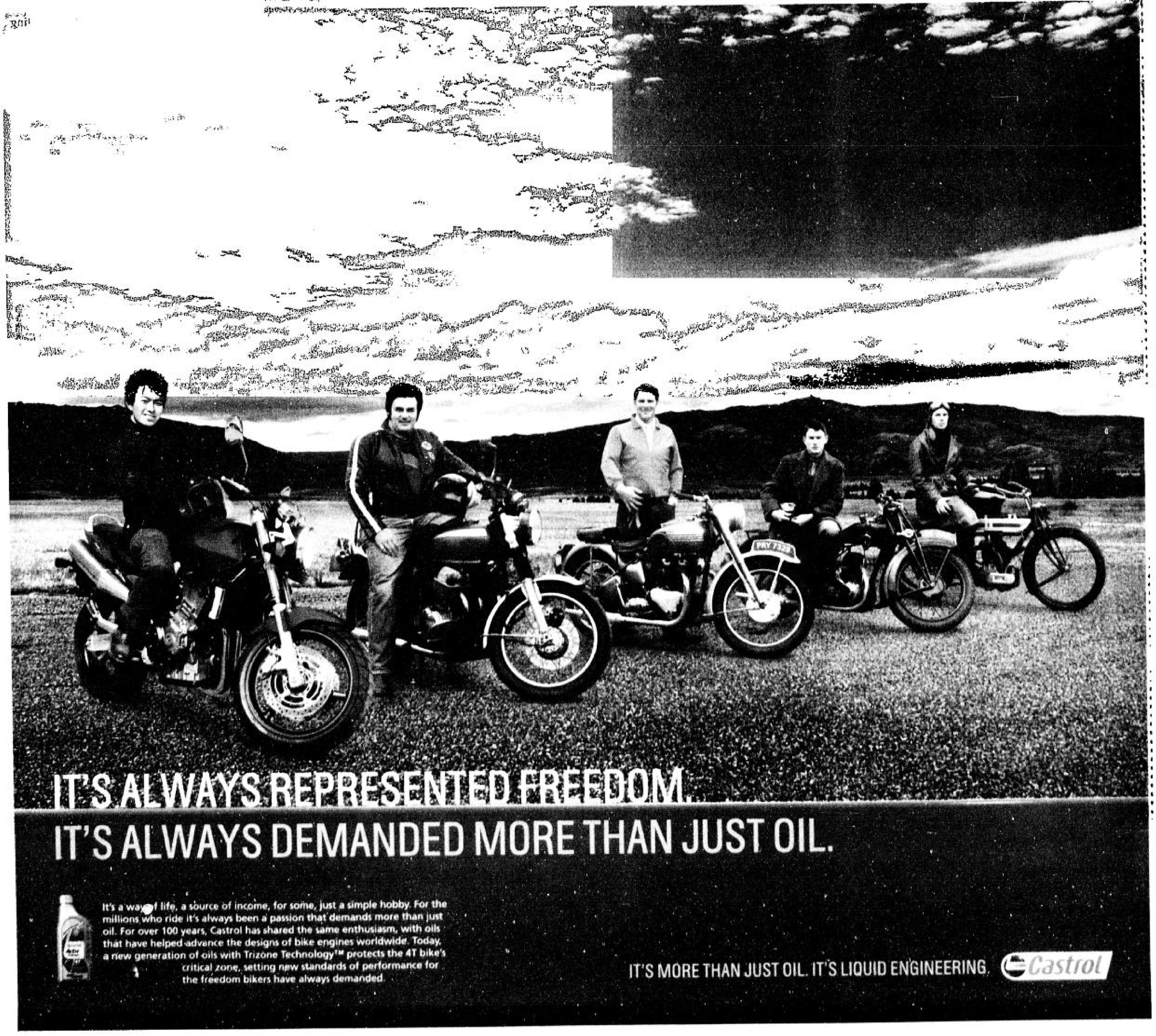

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54 applicants beat draft deadline

By June Navarro

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THERE WILL be no consensus No. 1 pick in the Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft. And until Sta. Lucia announces the name it will tab first overall, the mystery will remain.

A total of 54 applicants beat the deadline for the rookie draft which will be tantatively held on Aug. 20 at the Market! Market! in Taguig.

Among them are Far Eastern's Arwind Santos and Ateneo's LA Tenorio—two players widely considered for the No. 1 position. Joseph Yeo, on the other hand, of La Salle, is a first round shoo-in.

Crowding Santos and Tenorio for the top pick are three blue-collar Fil-Ams in Kelly Williams, Joe Da Vance and Rob Reyes, who managed to submit their documents, which will be heavily scrutinized before they are declared eligible.

Beyond the six players, though, everything's a toss-up.

Applicants include 2004 NCAA MVP and Rookie of the Year Gabby Espinas, reigning NCAA MVP Jay Sagad, FEU's Mark Isip and RJ Rizada and the Letran trio of Boyet Bautista, Ronjay and Mark Andaya.

Junjun Cabatu of La Salle and UP's 6-foot-7JR Reyes could have been first-round shoo-ins also but both are expected to be withdrawn when Welcoat names them as part of the team it will elevate to the pro ranks.

Other notable names in the list are Ateneo's Magnum Membrere, Christian Luanzon of UST, Mapua's Erwin Sta. Maria and Ollan Omiping of UE.

Sta. Lucia Realty owns this year's top overall pick, Air21 will select second and fourth overall while San Miguel has the third and fifth picks in the first round.

Filipino Little League batters secure World Series berth

JAKARTA—TEAM PHILIPPINES CRUSHED THE Commonwealth of Northern Marianas in an abbreviated match, 13-1, yesterday, to bag the Little League Asia-Pacific regional baseball championship here and earn the right to play in the World Series slated in the United States.

Represented by the International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) players aged 15-16, the Filipinos pelted three Marianas pitchers with a total of 10 hits to seal a stint in the World Series in Bangor Maine from Aug. 12-19.

Filipino ace Gian Jimenez allowed just two hits and one earned run before the game was called in the middle of the fifth inning as the Marianas, represented by the Saipan Little League chapter, could not cut the deficit below 10 runs.

Catcher Luke Bernardo scored second baseman CJ Concepcion with an RBI single at the bottom of the first, touching off the RP offensive.

The Filipinos, whose first two wins were anchored on starting pitcher Angelo Esguerra, lost only to Hong Kong earlier in the week.

The win came on the heels of the RP victory over defending champion Guan, 7-0, Thursday.

The Philippines, runner-up in last year's Aspac tournament, also beat Indonesia, 9-3.

Chinese aces give Asians early cushion

From page A23

won two tournaments in the past year and made at least the semifinals of 14 of their last 19 events worldwide, including a runner-up finish in the All-England championships.

Asia is bidding to win this Ryder Cup-style event for the second straight year as crowd-darling Indonesian Taufik Hidayat debuts against world No. 4 Kenneth Jonassen in the men's singles today.

Each victory today will count for two points, with the matches scheduled in the final day tomorrow bringing three each. The winning continent will pocket $60,000 (around P3.15 million) out of the $100,000 dangled by telecommunications tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, who celebrated his 60th birthday yesterday.

Filipinos Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion will see action tomorrow against the world's top-ranked mixed pair of Thomas Laybourn and Kamila Rytter-Juhl.

The event is being presented by Smart Communications and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, and sponsored by JVC, ABC 5, Nokia, Snickers, Information Gateway, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Toby's Yonex, Sunrise, the Philippine Star, Discovery Suites, California Pizza Kitchen and Gatorade.

ZHANG Ning returns to ex-compatriot Yao Jie in the second singles. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Chinese flaunt new style

CHINA IS NOT JUST LEADING THE WORLD in badminton. But—in a response to a call by the Asian Badminton Federation for more stylish uniforms—also in badminton fashion. As eye-catching as his moves were Lin Dan's clothing. The world No. 2 sported a fitting top in blazing red with yellow rays reaching the cropped sleevesas he whipped Denmark's Niels Christian Kaldau, 19-21, 21-14, 21-10, in the opening men's singles. "I feel more comfortable wearing the new uniform," said Lin. The Chinese women's team is also sporting the same style but with body-hugging fit as displayed by World No. 1 Zhang Ning. For both men's and women's teams, the collars give way to a thick crew neck and Chinese collar. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

RP coach bets on Asia—and it won't even be close

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S GOING TO BE ASIA BY A MILE.

The fearless forecast came from the Philippines' head coach Errol Chan himself, stating that, man-for-man, the region has the edge over Europe in the ongoing MVP Cup regional showdown at the Araneta Coliseum.

Asia is bannered by young players like Lin Dan of China and Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia. The 22-year-old Lin is the world No. 2, relinquishing the top spot he held for so long to Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei.

Hidayat, 25, is currently the world champion and Olympic titlist. He slid down to 23rd in the world rankings after missing key tournaments because of injuries.

"It showed the fast transfer of talents in Asia which Europe doesn't seem to have," said Chan. "The Europeans have been there even before Lin Dan and Taufik started winning internationally."

Chan added that Europeans have chosen to import Asian talents instead of developing homegrown talents.

In this year's MVP Cup alone, Europeans will count on Jakarta-born Mia Audina and China-born Yao Jie, who are now naturalized Netherlands citizens. Audina, who is married to a Dutch coach, is currently 6th in the world, while Jie is No. 7.

"Skills and talents, they stand equal chance," said Chan. "But other factors will definitely spell the difference. Plus, the Asians will be playing on home grounds."

In the inaugural MVP Cup, Asia won by a big margin, 11-7.

Pacman vomits blood, rushed to hospital

WHAT HIS OPPONENTS FAILED TO DO in the ring, bad food succeeded in knocking out Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao yesterday.

Pacquiao, the WBC International champion, was rushed to Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital in Mandaluyong City yesterday after vomiting blood, doctors and friends said.

Pacquiao's close friend, Rex "Wakee" Salud, said the 27-year-old boxer suffered stomach pains after eating lunch and had to be rushed to the hospital.

One of his doctors, Regina Bagsic, a gastroenterologist, said that Pacquiao had gastroenteritis and needed to rest. Other doctors at the hospital said Pacquiao might be released today.

Salud said Pacquiao had a history of ulcers and suggested his condition could have something to do with the fact that he had forgotten to take his medication before eating his lunch.

Pacquiao retained his world super featherweight title on July 2 in a unanimous decision after a gruelling 12-round contest with Mexican challenger Oscar Larios at the Araneta Coliseum. *With a report from AFP*

MVP's fabulous birthday bash

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FABULOUS. THAT'S best way I can describe the birthday celebration of PLDT chair Manuel Velez Pangilinan (MVP) last Thursday at the Meralco Theatre in Ortigas.

That day was actually the eve of MVP's birthday. And he wasn't turning 50-something as I initially thought. He became a senior citizen when the clock struck 12 midnight.

When MVP said "heavy cocktails" would precede the concert, the main event for the evening, what came to mind was the vision of beer and champagne flowing, and of people swaggering toward the entrance of the theater an hour hence.

Well, beer and all manners of booze really did flow and food came in abundance—roast beef, roast lamb, smoked salmon and *tanigue*, all kinds of pasta, varied yummy sandwiches Cibo-style. I don't think my menu is complete because there were too many food booths and the place was rather huge.

In my book, that was a feast, not cocktail *hors'douvres*.

Why, they even served dessert. What most impressed me, however, was that they also served brewed decaffeinated coffee.

* * *

From the moment we walked into the reception lobby of the Meralco Theatre, we could tell that MVP's party was one classy affair. Lovely receptionists, all clad in elegant white evening attire, were posted in strategic areas to welcome and guide the guests.

PLDT's Kathy Herrera, one of the party planners, said that the evening's festivities was for the officers and employees of PLDT, Smart Communications and Metro Pacific Corp. and MVP's kin and friends.

I have never seen so much flowers, not even during weddings. The roses must have been ordered in tons. For a while I thought some of them were artificial because there were just too many. I plucked one from a rose-studded Christmas tree just to find out if they were real. They were.

* * *

The concert was one of the best I've ever attended, even vis-à-vis those with foreign talents. Consider this cast: Lani Misalucha, Regine Velasquez, Jed Madela, Bimbo Cerrudo, Christian Bautista, and Jon Santos who provided comic relief.

For awhile there, we thought that Gary Valenciano was a no-show, because the emcee, Anthony Pangilinan, announced that the cast was singing the last few songs.

Well, it turned out that Gary was being reserved for last. Gary shared his energy with his song and dance because pretty soon, everyone was dancing and singing with him.

The performance, according to Gary, was for a very special person "who is world-class and yet truly Pinoy."

During the video tribute, somebody said that based on his track record with PLDT and all the other companies he handled, perhaps MVP should run for President of the Philippines. With his business genius, perhaps he can make the country as progressive as his companies, the man on the video said.

Come to think of it, that's not such a bad idea. Not a bad idea at all.

* * *

Today at 4 p.m., Red Bull cager Enrico Villanueva will exchange "I do's" with Jovina Limhao at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, San Juan.

Among the couple's principal sponsors are Red Bull team owner George Chua, Enrico's manager Arben Santos and wife Cecilia, and Mrs. Lydia Gonzales, mother of Wesley, Enrico's former Ateneo teammate who now plays for San Miguel Beer.

Paolo Bugia, another former Blue Eagle who is now a Red Bull teammate, will stand as Enrico's bestman while Rich Alvarez and Wesley will act as secondary sponsors.

Considering that the PBA final series is ongoing, Enrico and his bride are lucky because they will have enough time for their honeymoon.

With all the venues booked for the weekend, the series will not resume until Wednesday next week.

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SPORTSWATCH

Rubillar, Thai collide in Bangkok

FILIPINO Juanito Rubillar and Thai Wandee Singwangcha meet for the first time today in Bangkok for the official press conference of their 12-round battle on Tuesday for the World Boxing Council interim junior flyweight title at the Mall Shopping Center in Bangkapi, Thailand. The Mexico-based WBC had ruled that the winner of this fight will move on to challenge WBC regular champion Brian Viloria, if he hurdles his Aug. 10 title defense. Officials of the Rubillar-Singwangcha showdown are referee Malcolm Bulner and judges Brad Vocale, Kanaya Takeaki and Jae Bong Kim. Rubillar is tabbed a slight favorite owing to his superior power. He holds a 39-9-7, 17 KOs and has lost only once—to Jorge Arce—in his last 16 fights. *Salven Lagumbay*

Domingo defends title against Lear

IT WILL be war today when Philippine bantam king Michael Domingo defends his title for the third time against erstwhile champ Johnny Lear at the Metropolis Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa. Both fighters are in terrific shape and have vowed to win at all costs in today's 12-round bout topbilling the Tugon sa Hamon: Box to the Max fight card. Domingo, fighting out of the SGG Stable, carved a name last July 2 with a 7th-round stoppage of Alejandro Felix Montiel in the Mano-A-Mano card at the Araneta Coliseum. Lear hopes to regain the title he had won in 2002. At yesterday's weigh-in at the Games and Amusements Board offices in Makati City, Domingo came in at 117.5 lbs while Lear checked in at 117 lbs. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Makiling Challenge listing ends today

RUNNERS and fitness enthusiasts have until today to register for a slot in the C-Lium Fibre 5th Makiling Challenge which takes place on July 23, in UP Los Baños, Laguna. The race, which has so far attracted hundreds of participants, will consist of a 10 kilometer and 5 km run up the slopes of Mt. Makiling. The top finisher wins an all-expense paid trip to Sydney, Australia, to compete in the 30th Sydney City to Surf run. Interested parties may register at the Mariners Office, Ramon Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa, Manila or at Baker Hall, UP Los Baños, Laguna, or contact Makiling Campus Runners at 0919-2856962, 0921-8257742 and 0916-3284367. Pre-registered participants will receive running singlets and trial packs of C-Lium Fibre.

Effective teaching at Coach E School

PARENTS and students are assured of getting their money's worth as Coach E Basketball again offers its unique personalized instruction in San Beda Alabang (July 25), The Zone Makati (July 26) and clubsixfifty in Libis (July 28). International Basketball Academy president Xavy Nunag said the school has an unparalleled 1:5 teacher-student ratio ever since it started in August 2004. "We know that parents shell out their hard-earned money for their children to learn so we make it our mission to teach basketball as rigidly as possible." Coach E is backed by Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Burlington, Accel and Brothers Burger. For inquiries and reservations, call 631-1195 (Mylene).

Pasay cockfest slated July 16

PASAY City Cockpit's 2-Cock Ulutan starts early at 8 a.m. tomorrow with more than 80 smalltime cockers and hackfight enthusiasts taking part. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. For an entry fee of P1,100, each champion will get P6,000, according to pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara. Likewise, the Kumbidahan Hackfight is being held at Pasay Cockpit every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Meanwhile, registration for the PCC 20th Anniversary 5-cock derby, slated July 24, 26 and 28, is open. Call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for details.

Salpukan Sa Taglugon round 3

THE THIRD round eliminations of P3M Salpukan Sa Taglugon 5-cock derby gets going at 5 p.m. today at Makati Coliseum with 57 matches lined up. Main backer is B-Meg Derby Ace. A special prize of P100,000 will be divided among participants who will score two points in today's round. According to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co, cockers and breeders can still join the derby on July 17 or 19. Entry fee is P10,000 and minimum bet is P5,500. Aside from the P2 million guaranteed prize, a brand new Ford Escape worth P1 million await the winners. Call 895-6475 and 896-3545.

Bautista shines as Letran keeps card unblemished

By Jasmine W. Payo

DON'T LET HIS SIZE FOOL YOU.

Diminutive playmaker Boyet Bautista stood tall when it mattered most, steering defending champion La Salle to a 62-54 triumph over Philippine Christian U last night in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Billed as the first rematch between the two teams that slugged it out for the title last year, the game ended exactly the same way, with Bautista highlighting a crucial run that allowed the Knights to climb to a 4-0 card.

The Dolphins, on the other hand, slipped to 4-1 in a tie with idle San Beda.

"If not for Boyet, we don't know where Letran would be in the standings," said Knights coach Louie Alas of his prized guard, who finished with 30 points and six rebounds.

In the other senior's game, veteran forward Jeofferson Gonzales made five triples in the third quarter to help Mapua win back-to-back games with a 79-74 victory over host College of St. Benilde.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	4	0
San Beda	4	1
PCU	4	2
Mapua	3	2
Perpetual	2	3
S. Sebastian	2	4
St. Benilde	1	4
Jose Rizal	0	4

GAMES MONDAY

(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)

12 noon—Letran vs Perpetual (Jrs/Srs)
3 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Jose Rizal (Jrs/Srs)

Second Game (Senior's)

MAPUA 79—Gonzales 19, Mazo 17, Dela Peña 14, Pascual N. 10, Sumalinog 6, Del Rosario 6, Co 5, Guillermo 2, Tiongco 0, Pascual J. 0, Palomique 0. Acosta 0.

ST. BENILDE 74—Robles 22, Urra 14, Johnston 12, Sevilla 9, Manlapaz 7, Libunao 7, Umlas 3, Aldover 0, Layug 0, Devara 0, Trillo 0, Manding 0.

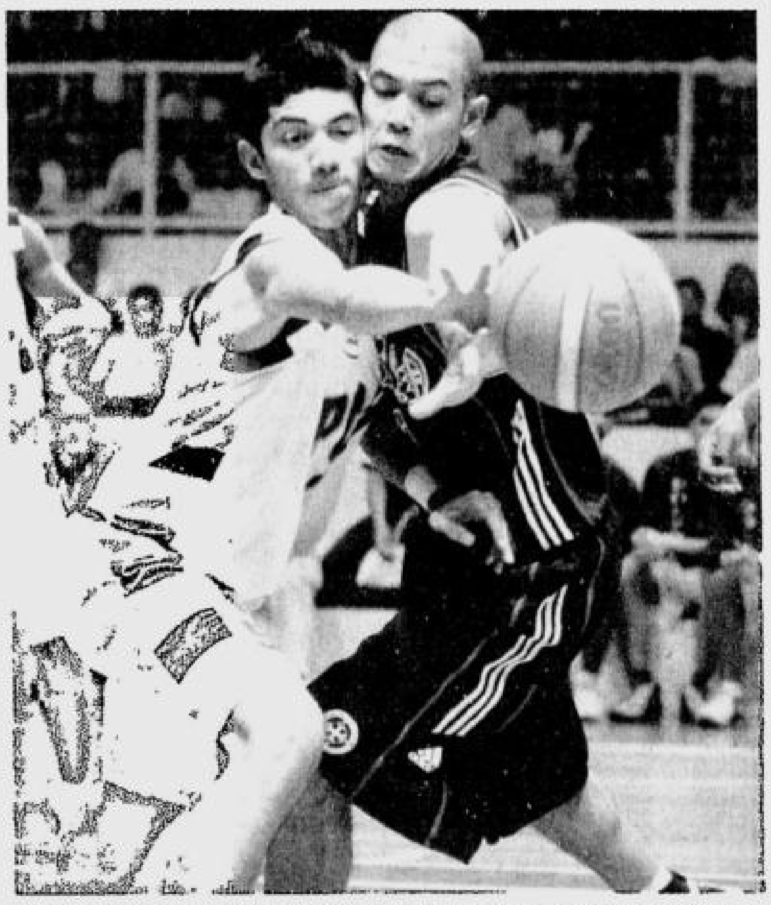
Quarters: 14-10, 29-28, 59-49, 79-74.

Third Game (Senior's)

LETRAN 62—Bautista 30, Quinday 9, Balneg 7, Jazul 6, Aban 6, Realista 4, Mondragon 0, Guevarra 0, Forondo 0, Faundo 0, Dangcal 0, Daa 0.

PCU 54—Espinas 13, David 12, Castro 9, Navarro 5, Belga 4, Garrido 3, Amparado 2, Santos 0, Mccoy 0.

Quarters: 18-17, 39-28, 49-40, 62-54.



PCU'S Kervin Timothy Mccoy and Letran's Hafer Mondragon (right) try to recover a loose ball in their game yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

Pagadian prevails, ties NBC semis series

PAGADIAN CITY—EXPANSION TEAM PAGADIAN forced a do-or-die game 3 with Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque in their best-of-three semifinal series Thursday night by winning, 99-85, in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the city gym here.

Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers streaked to a 78-58 third-quarter lead and never looked back to level the series at 1-1 after losing, 75-82, in game 1 of the semis sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings and Prime Channel.

"The crowd really got us going," said Pagadian coach Segundo "Bong" dela Cruz.

Six Explorers scored in twin digits as they made 11 of 22 attempts from the 3-point area, while the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana shot just 27 percent (7-of-26).

Upsets mark Shell superkarting fifth leg

TONYO CARCEL AND PACO RODRIGUEZ of Cebu Racing Group and Franco Reyes of Jet Racing turned back favored rivals in the fifth leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series at the Boomland Kart Track in Pasay City recently.

Carcel bested Christian Gaddi of Jet Racing and Eugene Okuda of M&M Karting in the Cadet 60 division while Rodriguez upended Javi Benitez of Jet Racing and John Alvarez of Cebu Racing Group for the ROK Junior crown.

Reyes, on the other hand, thwarted Vencer John Suba and Renz Pazcoguin to rule the Mini-ROK.

Carcel overtook pole-sitter Christian Gaddi in the 10th lap. He completed the 22 laps in 12 minutes and 31.833 seconds to beat Jaco Reyes.

Powered by a new engine, Rodriguez finished the 26-lap race in 12 minutes and 58.406 seconds. He was 4.490 seconds ahead of Juha Turalba. Benitez ended third while Roby Benito and Alvarez took fourth and fifth, respectively.

ASIAN F3

Peña, Sy post fast times in practice

SERIES leader Tyson Sy of the Philippines inspects his hastily rebuilt Dallara 304 prior to the afternoon practice session where he clocked second-best.

GUANGDONG—DADO PEÑA GEARED up for Round 6 of the Asian Formula Three series by setting the fastest time in the morning practice session Friday while fellow Filipino top gun Tyson Sy came up second best in the afternoon, raising hopes of another 1-2 Filipino finish at the Zhuhai International Circuit.

Sy, the overall series leader after five rounds, pulled it off despite struggling with his hastily rebuilt Dallara 304.

But the duo will have to watch out for Briton James Winslow, who finished second in the morning and first in the afternoon using a new chassis from Japan.

Winslow's teammate Dillon Battistini was third fastest in both runs as the drivers from Fujitsu Racing with Threebond posed a clear challenge after being nearly shut out in Round 5.

Peña's battery quit after just one lap in the afternoon run but the 19-year-old Team Goddard lead driver was unperturbed, saying he would have gone quicker than his fastest time of one minute and 35.593 seconds in the morning if not for that glitch.

"I feel very comfortable with the car now," said Peña, who returned to the pits in the 12th lap of the morning run to change to new tires even as the rest opted to keep their old tires.

"We have to know how much advantage we have in terms of tires."

All the drivers struggled in the humid conditions, but the weather was just fine for Peña. Rains are expected on Saturday, with typhoon Florita, which cut across the Philippines in the middle of the week, on its way here.

"I don't think the weather's going to be a problem," said Peña, whose stint here is supported by pldtmypad, pldtmydsl, Mossimo and Hanjin.

Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net and www.mypad.net for regular updates.

Sy, 18, claimed his team has found the proper set-up for his Dallara which figured in a crash with Speedtech Asia teammate Gabby dela Merced in Round 5.

He was bugged, however, by tires that vibrated in the morning practice session where he was fifth fastest. He showed remarkable improvement in the afternoon run with a clocking of 1:36.942.

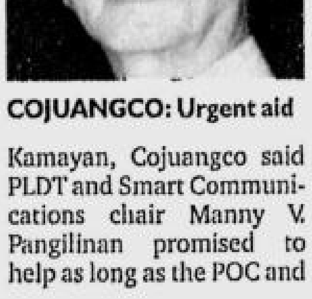
Winslow, meanwhile, clocked the second fastest time of 1:36.131 in the morning and 1:36.709 in the afternoon.

Winslow is running fifth in the standings with 42 points behind Sy (87), Battistini (56) and Peña and Ali Jackson (both 52).

Dela Merced, vying in the Promotions class for cars with chassis built in 2000 and older spun out after just three laps in the morning run but was confident she would do well in Saturday's race.

POC looks elsewhere for Asiad help

By Marc Anthony Reyes



COJUANGCO: Urgent aid

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee is making every effort to cushion the effect of hitherto chief fund-raiser First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's inability to help in the country's preparations for the Asian Games in December.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday said he has received pledges of support from the Filipino community in the United States and from a top local businessman.

Speaking at the Scoop sa Kamayan, Cojuangco said PLDT and Smart Communications chair Manny V. Pangilinan promised to help as long as the POC and the national sports associations (NSAs) can come up with long-term plans.

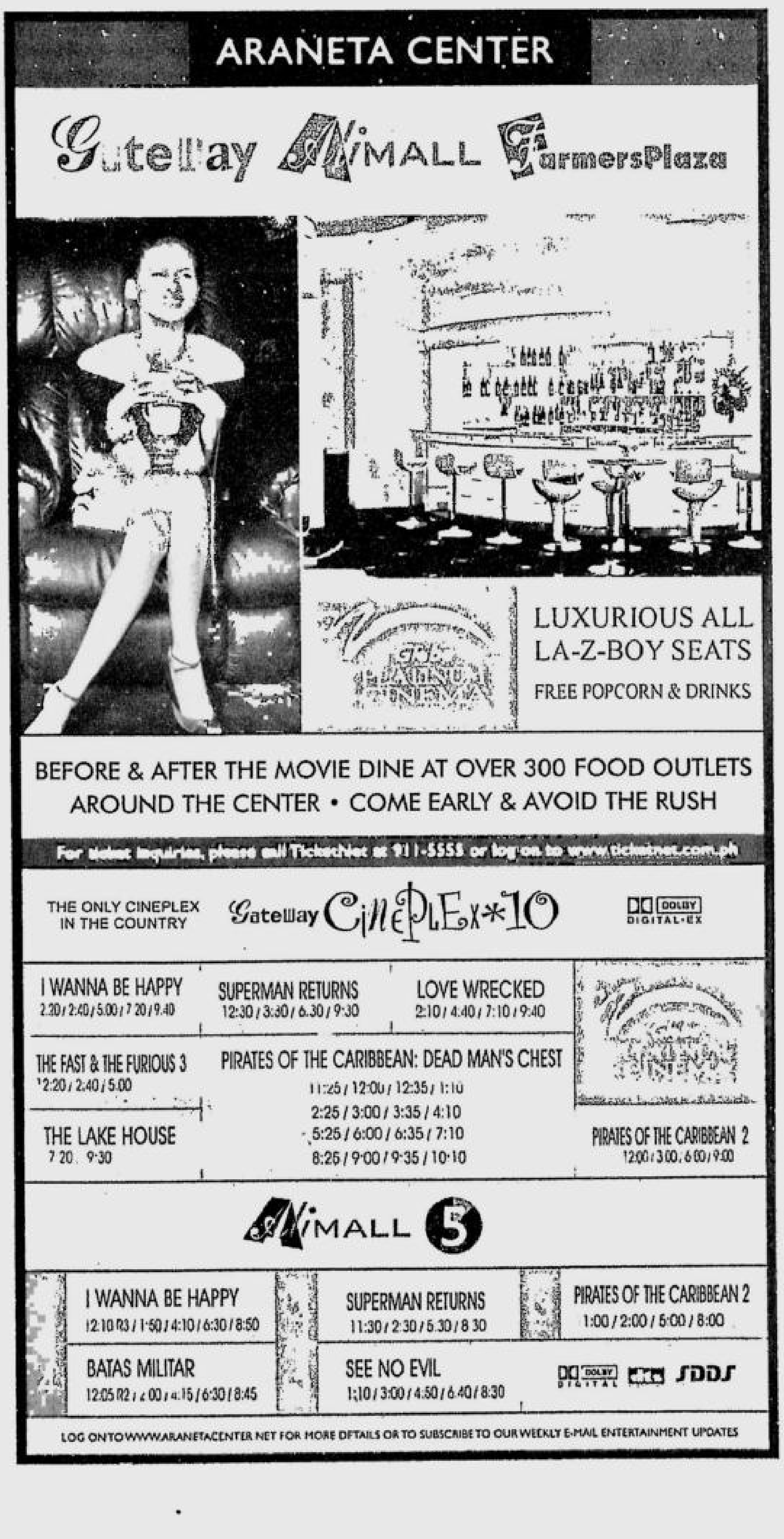
"Although I have to admit that FG's support is very substantial, I'm also very glad to say that there are people in the US willing to help in any way they can," said Cojuangco.

Arroyo, who raised P160 million for the RP athletes' preparations for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, has not indicated whether he would help raise funds again for the Asiad campaign.

POC sources, however, said they are still hoping that Mr. Arroyo would relent as the Olympic body is still reserving the Asiad chief of mission post for him.

Cojuangco said Filipinos in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Jersey and Chicago are offering their houses to the athletes for free while they are competing or training in the US.

He said the POC would need about P100 million to fund the RP athletes' Asiad preparations and campaign.



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THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 11:25 / 12:00 / 12:35 / 1:10
2:25 / 3:00 / 3:35 / 4:10
5:25 / 6:00 / 6:35 / 7:10
8:25 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 10:10
THE LAKE HOUSE 7:20 9:30
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
ANIMALL 5
I WANNA BE HAPPY 12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 1:00 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
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SPORTS

Landis takes Tour lead

VIELHA, SPAIN—THIS COULD BE THE LAST Tour de France for Floyd Landis. If so, then at least the US cyclist is determined to go out in style.

Landis, competing in cycling's most grueling race with what he says is a potentially career-ending arthritic hip condition, took the overall lead Thursday in the hardest stage of the high Pyrenees.

Landis didn't win the stage—that honor went instead to Russian Denis Menchov. But it didn't matter. The American's goal was to distance key rivals, establishing himself as the favorite to become the heir to Lance Armstrong, his former teammate. He did so, with style.

The 30-year-old, who rebelled against his pious Protestant upbringing to start racing as a teen, grinned broadly as he became the fifth US cyclist in the Tour's history to don the leader's prized yellow jersey.

"A dream come true," he said.

His performance offered a little clarity to the Tour, too. The race had been leaderless since a doping scandal knocked out several of the favorites before the start on July 1. Thanks to the Pyrenees, there's the beginnings of a hierarchy for the first time. Stage 11's five arduous climbs over 206.5 kilometers (128 miles), under the hot sun, mercilessly whittled down the field.

By the finish, at the Pla-de-Beret ski station above this Spanish town, just two riders had managed to cling to Landis: Menchov and fellow American Levi Leipheimer, looking to redeem what has been a horrible Tour for him so far.

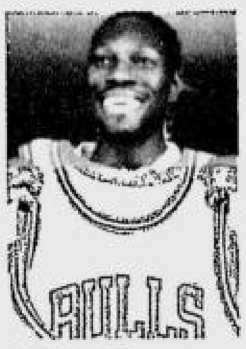
Although the gaps that Landis opened up aren't as large as those that might come in the even harder Alps next week, they were still significant—if not decisive.

German Andreas Kloeden, runner-up to Armstrong at the 2004 Tour, finished 1 minute, 31 seconds behind. Portuguese rider Jose Azevedo dropped 4:10, as did Italian Gilberto Simoni. *AP*

LANDIS: Hoping to end career in style REUTERS

Ben officially a Bull

CHICAGO—BEN WALLACE signed a four-year, $60 million contract Thursday with the Chicago Bulls after leaving the Detroit Pistons, the team he led to four straight conference finals and an NBA championship.



WALLACE REUTERS

The 6-foot-9 Wallace, a four-time Defensive Player of the Year, will give the Bulls and their young nucleus an inside presence they lacked while being eliminated in the first round of the playoffs two straight seasons.

Wallace made his decision to bolt the Pistons after a face-to-face meeting with general manager John Paxson and coach Scott Skiles. The Bulls, with room under the salary cap, also offered more money.

Wallace ranked fourth in the NBA last season in rebounding (11.3), ninth in blocks (2.2) and 10th in steals (1.78)—the only player among the top 10 in all three categories.

Asked what the problem was with his free throw shooting, Wallace showed a sense of humor.

"I miss more than I make," he said.

Meanwhile, The Los Angeles Clippers confirmed Thursday they have signed forward Tim Thomas as a replacement for Serbian Vladimir Radmanovic, who signed earlier in the day with the Los Angeles Lakers. *AP, AFP*

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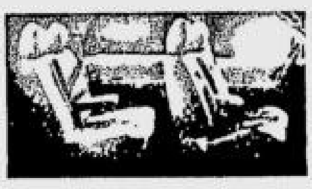

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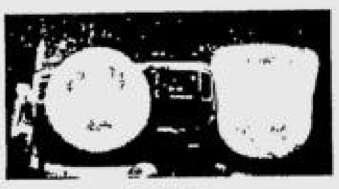

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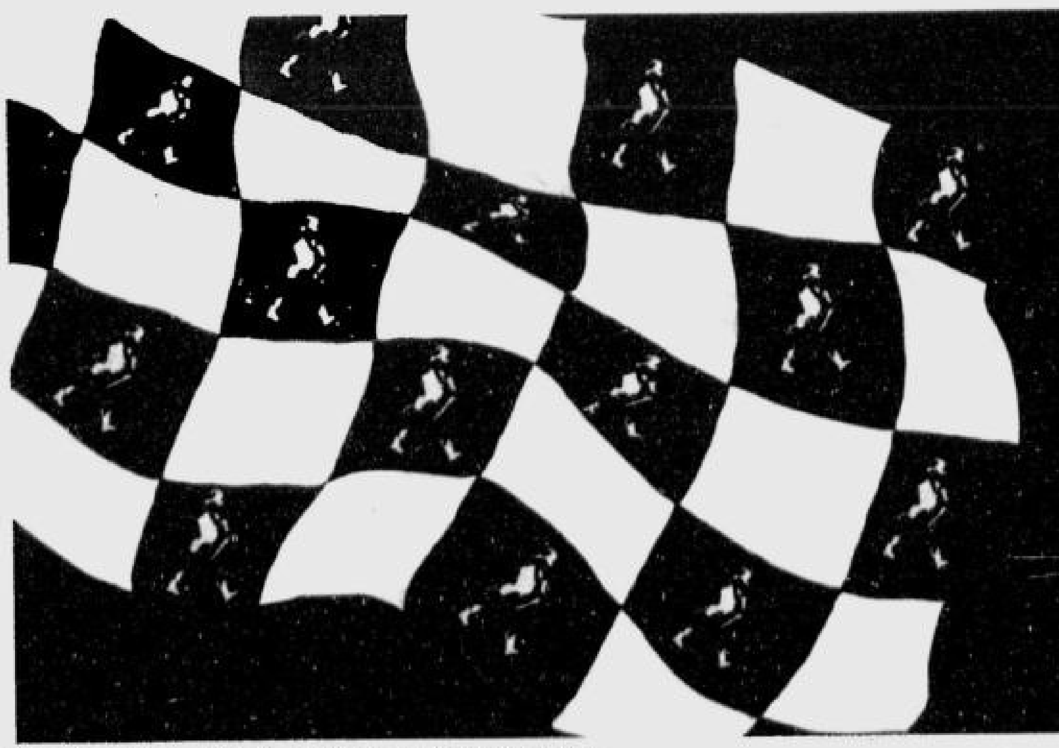

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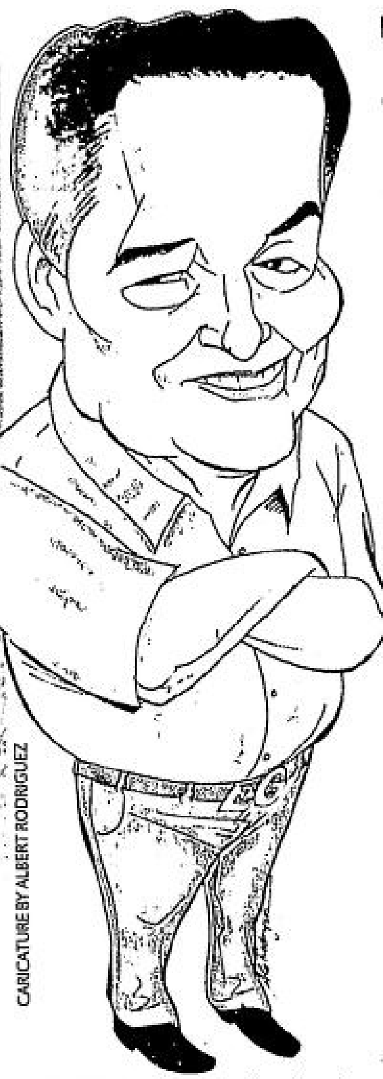
New movies boost Filipino films' happiness quotient



GARCIA. Endearingly abrasive.

By Rito P. Asilo

"I Wanna Be Happy"

D: Jose Javier Reyes
S: Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero, Cherry Pie Picache, Keanna Reeves, Joey Marquez

DON'T BE PUT-OFF BY ITS INsipid title. Jose Javier Reyes' latest production is one of the better local movies this film season—and Seiko Films' most successful cinematic effort in years:

After a seemingly petty argument, Mameng (Gloria Romero) suddenly packs up her bags and leaves Ely (Eddie Garcia) barely two months before their 50th wedding anniversary.

The unexpected development turns the couple's household upside down, and discombobulates their three children—Jun (Joey Marquez), a recently widowed dentist; Rory (Cherry Pie Picache), a non-confrontational homemaker with a two-timing husband, George (Christian Vazquez), and the stubbornly-independent Tish (Diana Zubiri), who's been living with Ken (Alfred Vargas) for two years.

But, the riotous frenzy doesn't stop there: While Mameng basks in the joys of independence (she discovers the gym, learns texting and ballroom dancing, and travels to Bangkok), and Ely rediscovers the cheap thrills of his newfound bachelorhood (he later brings home Cristy—played by the delightful, scene-stealing Keanna Reeves—the kooky paramour he meets at a girlie club), Jun, Rory and Tish are forced to confront their respective battles at home while they try to patch things up for their squabbling folks.

Robbie Tan's production outfit takes a road seldom traveled and delivers a wholesome package that wisely capitalizes on its actors' collective likability, notably Garcia, Romero, Reeves (who makes her less-than-appealing character sympathetic) and Picache (who shines in an empowering, cathartic scene at the supermarket).

The headstrong Romero manages to hold her own against the endearingly abrasive Garcia, who delivers a familiar but nonetheless effective portrayal of the stubborn patriarch.

But, the movie's isn't without flaws: It flounders on a too-simplistic storytelling tack that has Mameng explaining her sudden flight as a mere ploy "to prove a

NEW/ A2-3

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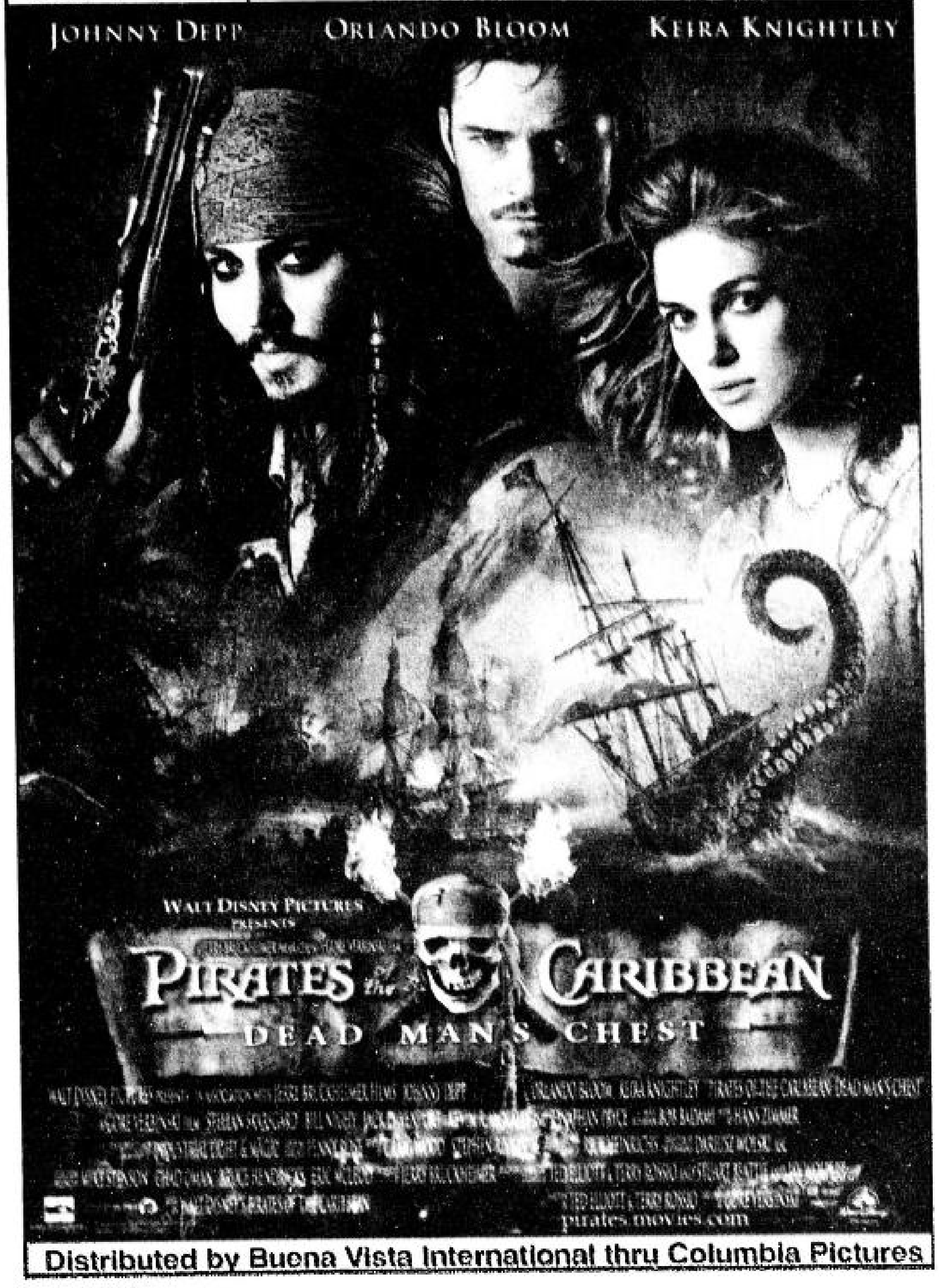
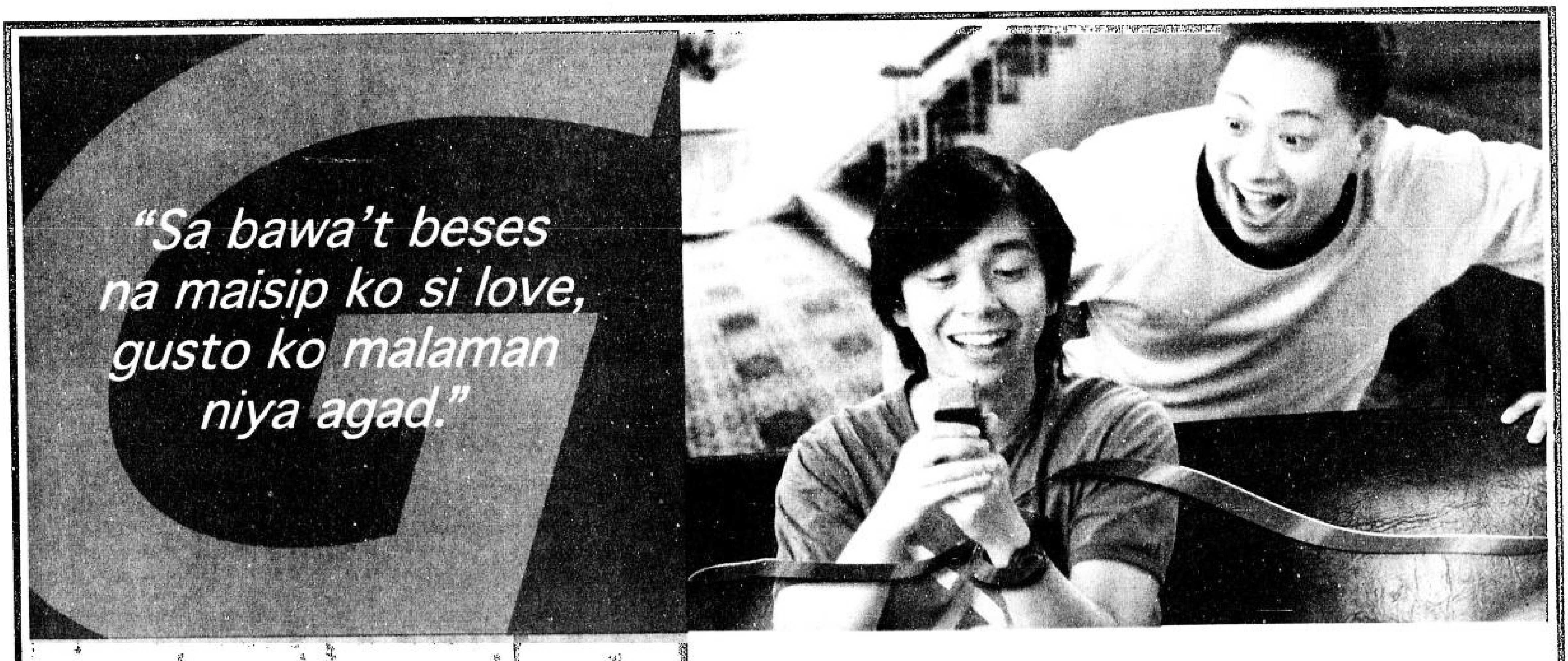


Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures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‘Master Class’

HALLIWELL AND GREEN. Topbill Hallmark's "Rocketman."

CURRENTLY SHOWING AT THE RCBC Romulo Theater on Ayala ave. is the Philippine Opera Company's production of Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play, "Master Class," starring Jay Valencia Glorioso as Maria Callas and directed by Michael Williams. The should-see show for performing artists and opera buffs also features Karla Gutierrez, Anna Feleo and John Glen Gaerlan as the young singers who are relentlessly critiqued by Callas. Visit www.philippine-opera.com.

MONTAGE

Family drama on Hallmark Channel

"Rocketman," a six-part family drama, premieres on the Hallmark Channel at 8 p.m. tomorrow. The mini-series is about a widower, George Stevenson (Robson Green), who dreams of building a rocket to launch into space to scatter his wife's ashes, so he and his children, Angela and Tom (John Halliwell), can always "see" her in the sky.

As he and his team build the rocket, they also rebuild their bruised egos after their mass lay-off at a factory. But; personal problems intrude: Tom neglects his schoolwork, and Angela deals with teenage issues, so the project's successful outcome is an iffy proposition. Encore telecast is on July 17 at 3 p.m.

‘Showmanship for Solo Singers’

What qualities must solo singers have to catch and sustain the interest of their audience? What are the elements that comprise an outstanding solo singing performance?

Find out on July 22, from 1 to 5 p.m., when the acclaimed Celeste Legaspi, who is known for her exquisitely-mounted concerts, shares her expertise and experience on the performance stage in "Showmanship for Solo Singers" at Ryan Cayabyab, The Music Studio. Call 844-3330 or 843-2874.

Bands of Mugen

Mugen at the Metrowalk Complex, Ortigas City, Presents these popular bands: July 19, 6CycleMind, July 26, Brownman Revival. Other featured entertainers this month: Mondays, stand-up comedians Le Chazz and Ferdie, and the SPI Band. Tuesdays, sultry Mocha. Fridays, the Hush Band. Saturdays, the Livewire Band. Call 637-4089.

YES FM shakes up the airwaves

YES FM 101.1 comes up with exciting new shows: Bruno, Brownie and Beauty tickle listeners' funnybones with "YES Joke Lang." "YESpiya" serves up the hottest show biz *chika*. "Usapang Yes" invites "everyday" people to weigh in on relevant issues.

Kevin Bacon hosts the waker-upper show, "YES Gising Na," followed by T-Browne in "Primetime Yes," "Yes at Work" with Bruce Dilis, Tito Potato in "YES Hitlist," Sugar in "YES Afternoon Delight," Toni Macaroni in "Biyaheng Yes," Cholo Chorizo in "YES Showtime," and Edu Mansanas in the late-late "YES All the Way."

Pop Jewel

At 8 tonight, new singing star, Pop Jewel (Amber Alejo Rowley), will launch her album, "Feel Good Music," at Hard Rock Café Makati. The album features the carrier single, "Manila," and 11 other tunes that blend American and Filipino influences, like "This Place," "So Beautiful," "Ikaw ang Buhay Ko," "He's Not for You" and "Daddy."

POP JEWEL. Launches debut album, "Feel Good Music," at Hard Rock Café.

Ms Gay Philippines 2006

Ms Gay Philippines celebrates its 27th year today at Funline Comedy Bar & Café at 2110 Roxas blvb. Pageant host is Dennis Bañez, *aka* Gabriel Gamboa. Celebrities have been invited to grace the event. Call Chito Alcid at 0919 345-938.

On ‘GamePlan’

At 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on Studio 23, "GamePlan's" Wowie Meloto joins Tricia Chiongbian in competing in the first all-girl adventure race, The Rudy Girl Challenge. And Ramon B. visits his high school P.E. mentor in a segment titled "Misfit."

Jed Madela

Jed Madela, with Prime Council, Gail Blanco, Karlyn Bayot and his sister, Christine, performs tonight at Onstage Greenbelt in his birthday concert, "The Grand Champion Performer of the World." It's also his send-off party for the World Championships of the Performing Arts 2006 in Los Angeles. Call 891-9999.

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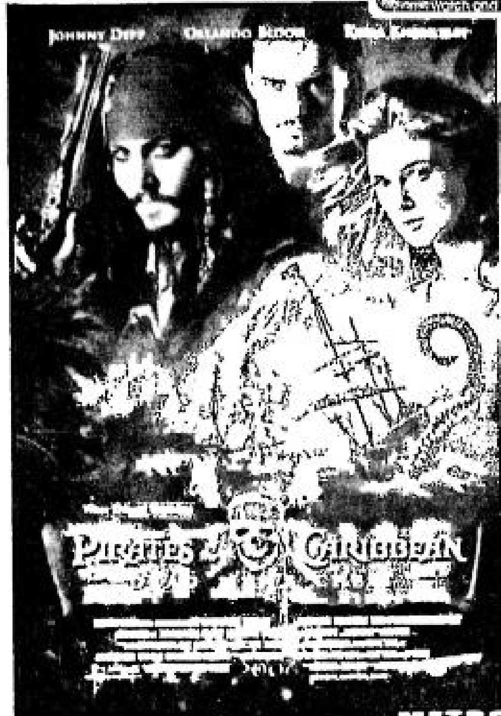

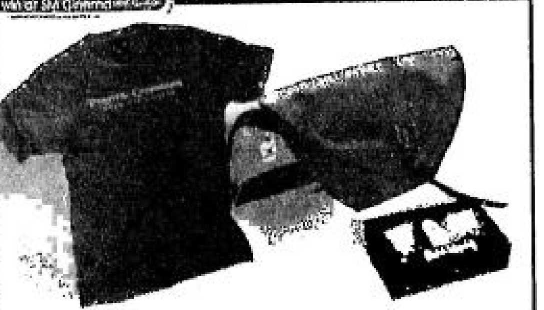

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What is the name of Will Turner's father?

Send in your answers together with your particulars at movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com or at your nearest SM Cinema branch. Answer must be correct in order to qualify. Multiple entries received will only be counted as a single entry. Ten (10) lucky winners will be chosen from all the entries received. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 25, 2006.

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4 UNITED 93
5 INITIAL D
6 I WANNA BE HAPPY

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CINEMA 2
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM NORTH EDSA
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2 BATAS MILITAR
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY
6 INITIAL D
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
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2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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SCARY MOVIE 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
INITIAL D
THE NUN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LOVEWRECKED
BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
INITIAL D
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
THE NUN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 INITIAL D
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SCARY MOVIE 4
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
8 LOVEWRECKED
9 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
10 THE NUN
11 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12 BATAS MILITAR

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY
6 LOVEWRECKED
7 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
8 BATAS MILITAR
9 INITIAL D
10 THE NUN

SM CITY MANILA
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 THE NUN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 LOVEWRECKED
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
7 BATAS MILITAR
8 LAKE HOUSE
9 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
10 SCARY MOVIE 4
11 INITIAL D
12 I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
LOVEWRECKED
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 INITIAL D

SM CITY SUCAT
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY MARILAO
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 BATAS MILITAR
2 THE NUN
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 I WANNA BE HAPPY
7 LOVEWRECKED
8 INITIAL D

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LAKE HOUSE

SM CITY LUCENA
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
AQUAMARINE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3

SM CITY CLARK
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY MOLINO
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. ROSA
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CEBU
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 CHAOS
4 TAKE THE LEAD
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY
6 BATAS MILITAR
7 THE NUN
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
LAKE HOUSE
RESERVED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SUPERMAN RETURN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
RESERVED
THE NUN

SM CITY DAVAO
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 THE NUN
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 FAST AND FURIOUS
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN3
6 SUPERMAN RETURN

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 SUPERMAN RETURN
3 FAST AND FURIOUS 3
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
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G

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
1:40, 5:00, 8:15, 11:30
G

3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11:30, 2:45, 6:00, 9:30
G

4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10
G

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CINEMA 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:00, 2:10, 5:20, 8:30 GP
CINEMA 4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
11:10, 2:05, 5:00, 7:55, 10:50 GP
CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
10:30, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10 GP
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JULY 22, 2006	RAZORBACK BAND	9:00PM
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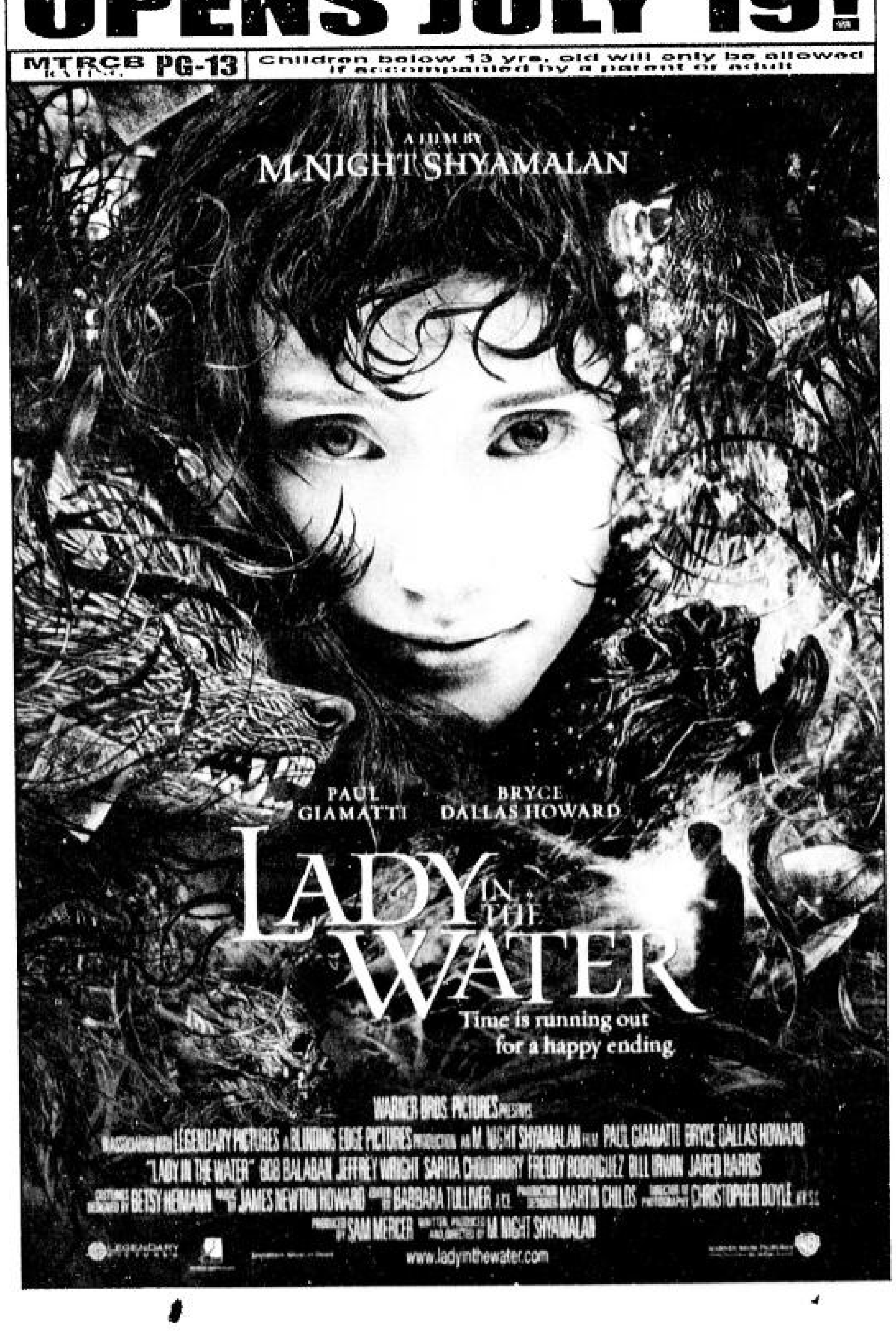

A FILM BY M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN
PAUL GIAMATTI
BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD
LADY IN THE WATER
Time is running out for a happy ending
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
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PRODUCED BY SAM MERCER WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN
www.ladyinthewater.com

Five more performances for 'Nasaan si Hesus?'

BING PIMENTEL AND NESTOR Torre's acclaimed religious musical, "Nassan si Hesus?" has been performed over 50 times, but the drama-comedy-musical production remains popular with viewers and sponsors.

Next month, it will have five more performances: At 8 p.m. on Aug. 5, "Nasaan si Hesus?" will be staged at the Our Lady of Fatima church in Bacood, Sta. Mesa for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. (Call Giselle Barrera at 0918 937-5562.)

PIMENTEL AND IÑIGUEZ. Raising funds for a good cause.

Health services

And, on Aug. 11 and 12, the show will have 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. evening performances at St. James Academy's Mother Francisca Auditorium in Malabon City. The four shows will raise funds for the Diocese of Caloocan, in cooperation with the Caloocan Diocese Schools Association. Income generated will go to the Priests' Welfare Fund and health services for the clergy of the diocese.

The executive committee's over-all chairperson is Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, and Rev. Msgr. Boanerges A. Lechuga, Rev. Fr. Jeronimo Ma. J. Cruz and Sr. Ma. Sofia D. Taguinod, O.P., are the vice chairpersons. Call 287-4028 or telefax 288-9137.

Trials

"Nasaan si Hesus?" dramatizes the daily struggles and trials of Christians in a wide variety of situations that different age groups can readily empathize with.

Its cast is composed of gifted musical-theater standouts like Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Shiela Asuncion, Catherine Estabillo, Nadja Matining, Robby Romero, Cecil Torre, Rey Manalo, Roychelle Torre, AJ Reyes, Mica Torre and Jan Alexander.

If you want "Nasaan si Hesus?" performed in your parish, school or locality, call Andy at 780-9210 or 0919 206-5424.

Sara Lee brought me life's luxuries and financial security!

Norman Ortega, one of Sara Lee Direct Selling's top IBMs, poses beside two of four vehicles he acquired through Sara Lee's Vehicle Incentive Program.

Twelve years ago, Norman Ortega of Shaw Blvd. branch counted money for a living. He was a typical bank employee who worked hard to give his family a brighter future. Yet, counting money was not exactly his idea of a lifetime occupation. "The fact that I was counting somebody else's money and not mine, made it even worse!" he said in jest.

Until Sara Lee Direct Selling beckoned. He realized the products were all quality items and consumables, generating repeat orders. He learned too that the incentives and income opportunities are a lot more attractive. Hence, Norman became a dealer for Sara Lee.

His decision proved to be a wise one. "I used to be an introvert," he revealed. "But Sara Lee transformed me into a leader, someone who can confidently talk and convince people."

An improved personality is not all that he gained. He has acquired greater earning power as well. Now one of Sara Lee's top Independent Business Managers (IBMs), Norman no longer counts other people's money. His generous earnings at Sara Lee support not just his family's needs. With it, he has bought four brand-new vehicles as well. Plus, he and his family have also traveled to almost all major cities of the world for free!

Like Norman's life-changing experience at Sara Lee, everyone can turn their life into an exciting and prosperous one. The key is choosing the right path to happiness and success. For Norman, it is an avenue that passes through the profitable world of direct sales, an avenue called Sara Lee Direct Selling.

Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Champion, Wonderbra, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS. Versus, Nutrimetics, and Zwitsal. Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world. If you have questions, need additional information or wish to become a dealer, call 859-3000, or send an email to customer_relation@saraleedirectselling.ph. You can also send inquiries through fax number 867-2279. You may also get in touch through text at 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471

New movies boost Filipino films' . . .

From page A2-1

point"—including serious threats of annulment and a scary trip to the I.C.U.? Come on.

Despite his film's tendency to overstate the obvious, Reyes strings some logical, plausible explanations to justify a feel-good finale for everyone. But, while the trick works for the easily-pleased moviegoer, the narrative's easy way out feels more didactic and idiosyncratic than realistic—as it's supposed to be.

DAVAO AND BAIS. Topbill Cinemalaya entry, "Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?"

"Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?"

D: Florida Bautista

S: Andy Bais, Mica Torre, Ricky Davao, Noni Buencamino, Nanette Inventor, Caridad Sanchez, Rez Cortez, Darling Lavinia

From the dynamic team behind last year's award-winning Cinemalaya entry, "I.C.U. Bed #7," comes a refreshing confection that carries the recipe for an indie smash: Florida Bautista's directorial debut (which will be screened at the CCP from July 18 to 22, text +63915 214-1567 for screening schedule) is a flawed but well-meaning cinematic treatise that puts a gonzo spin on man's constant search for happiness:

Interspersing drama, comedy and music, the film weaves its socio-realist allegorical

TWO/ A2-5

'Master . . .

From page A2-2

K Brosas

K Brosas marks her birthday with "K Brosas, Bar Girl" tonight at Ratsky Tomas Morato. Guest performers include Kyla, Keanna Reeves, The Boxers, Gerald Santos, The Drag-Ons and Regine Velasquez. Call 373-9882.

Gerald Anderson

The "Gerald's Dance Picks" album mall tour starts at 4 p.m. today at SM-Sta.Rosa, Laguna. Gerald Anderson's dance selections include "Dale Candela," "Out of Touch," "Know You Wanna," "Shake That," "Can't Get Enough" and "Bounce."

'Amore'

MCA Music, Fudge magazine and the Shangri-La mall celebrate the release of Andrea Bocelli's latest album, "Amore" on July 18, 6 p.m. at the Atrium of the Shangri-La in Ortigas Center. Accompanied by jazz quartet, Javadelic, tenor Jonathan Badon will interpret tracks from the album. In "Amore," Bocelli deviates from his previous albums with a more sensuous sound. He considers the collection the most musically satisfying of his career.

T'nalak Festival

Sarah Geronimo and Mark Bautista will perform at the seventh T'nalak Festival in South Cotabato (July 13-18). Events: Daily until July 18, Beerfest—Battle of the Bands. Today, Pinasadyahan Motocross, Flat Track competition and Dance Sports. Tomorrow, Motocross and Flat Track competition and Mutya ng South Cotabato competition. July 17, National Modern Dance competition. July 17, National Modern

MASTER/ A2-6

ANDERSON. Mall tour for his debut album, "Gerald's Dance Picks."

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Nina Siemaszko
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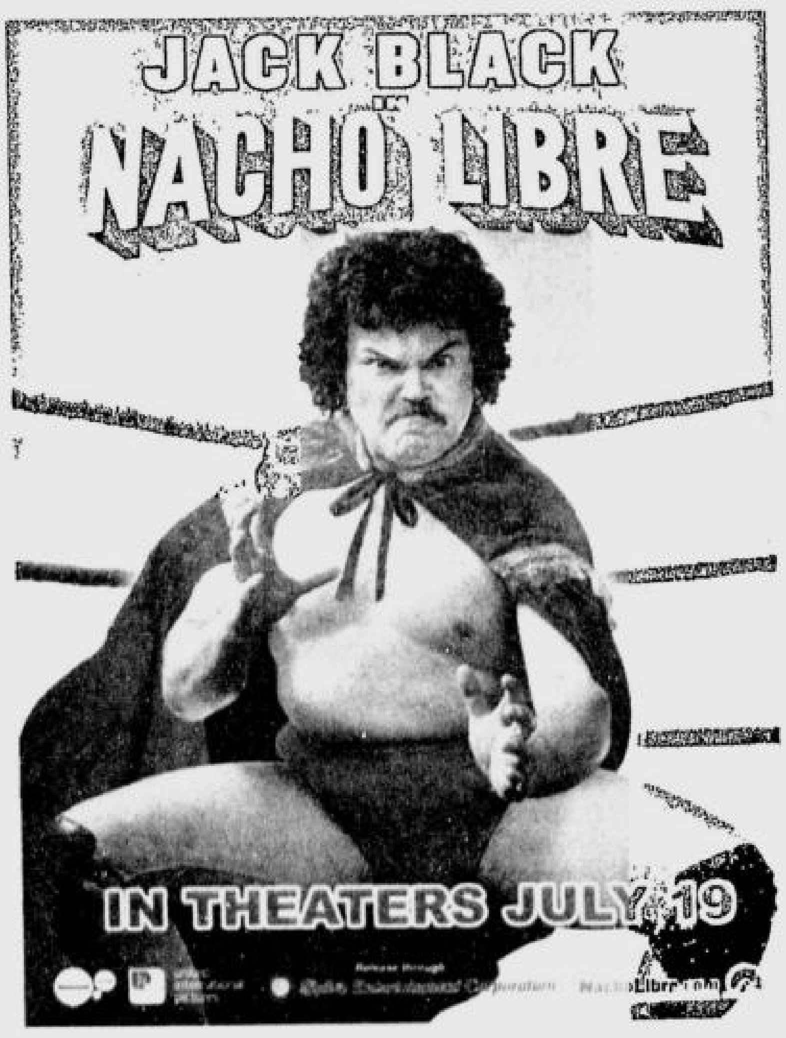
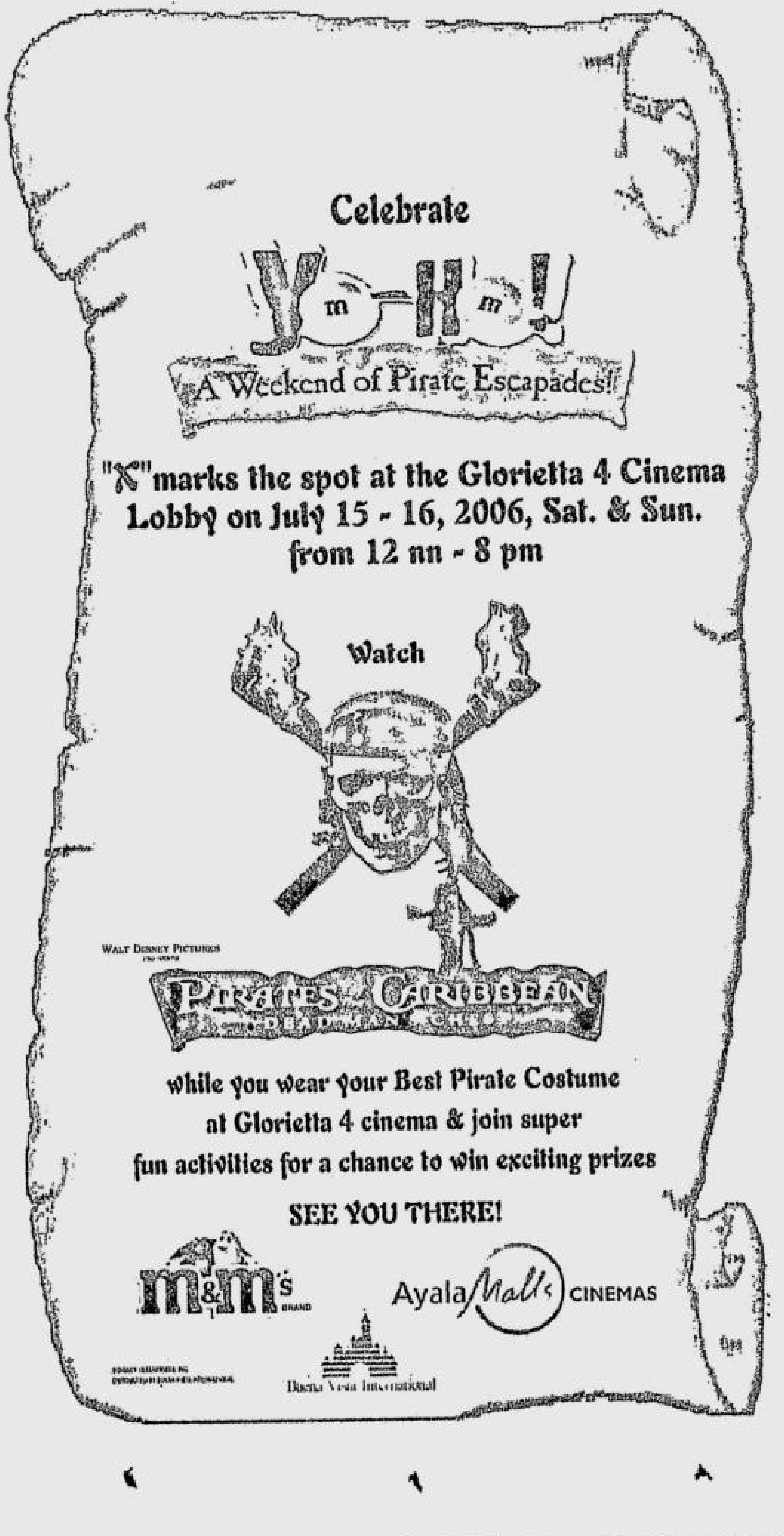
The Funny Girl from She's the MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy
AMANDA BYNES
To get the guy of her dreams, One girl is really going overboard.
LOVE WRECKED
2ND WEEK
CHRIS CARMACK JAMIE-LYNN DISCALA JONATHAN BENNETT




Celebrate Yo-Ho! A Weekend of Pirate Escapades!!

"X" marks the spot at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby on July 15 - 16, 2006, Sat. & Sun. from 12 nn - 8 pm

Watch Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest while you wear your Best Pirate Costume at Glorietta 4 cinema & join super fun activities for a chance to win exciting prizes

SEE YOU THERE!

Mitch Valdes keeps getting better and better

By Behn Cervantes

UNRESERVEDLY, I DECLARE MITCH Valdes a national pop-culture treasure. After all, she is not only multitalented, she's also a committed artist and a cultural activist.

Unlike those who merely do things for publicity, Mitch wisely chooses her battles. Once known as Maya, she isn't just one of our finest comediennes, she also happens to be a fine singer and a sensitive film and stage actress.

She is a role model for the country's entertainers. Her leadership of the Organisasyon ng mga Pilipinong Mang-aawit has lent prestige to the entertainers' group and resulted in trendsetting advocacies.

Performance

One friend assesses her performance this way: *"Taong-tao siya!"* And I completely agree. She invests so much of herself in the comic characters she creates for the stage. Indeed, there are many aspects in her show's script that are autobiographical in nature.

For viewers, the performance becomes personal, because we realize how much she opens herself up to us. Her generosity and courage to share her personal experiences take us by surprise, because we know we've also gone through the same experiences in our younger, more reckless years.

Sense of responsibility

We have survived those foibles and have become better persons. The common experience bonds us with Mitch and the era she speaks of. As a result, we develop a sense of responsibility for those around us: It wasn't just fun and games, after all!

This wily performer is a sensitive and intelligent person who allows you a mere glimpse of herself. But, there's much more to her: Without a doubt, she's also a nationalist with a deep love for her country.

We sense her serious side, but she never pushes it further because she doesn't want to confuse politics with satire. Therefore, you leave Mitch's show highly entertained, but you're also impressed by the soul behind the entertainer.

Mitch is one of my favorite entertainers. I rank her among the very best—in the world. When she combines mime, music and dialogue, she's sublime.

When I was living in New York, I used to watch Rosie O'Donnell's TV talk show regularly. I couldn't help comparing the wonderful American comedienne with Mitch. Rosie's undoubtedly good—she has soul and has wonderful rapport with her audience.

Advocate

But Mitch has all of that—and more! She can sing—from ballads and blues to rock and roll and hiphop! She wisely uses her persona to advocate for the rights of her fellow artists, women, and the country in general. In short, Mitch is the "compleat" Filipino performer.

When I read that Mitch's current show at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental was extended through all Fridays this month, I cheered, because more people can get to appreciate her for the fine performer that she is.

The more of Mitch, the merrier!

VALDES. Doesn't want to confuse politics with satire.

'Jazz and More' showcases Mon David's winning form

By Rito P. Asilo

THE NIGHT MAY have been cold and rainy last Saturday, but the mood inside Greenbelt's Onstage was warm and jovial—not adjectives you'd normally use to describe the atmosphere at a conventional jazz concert.

When Mon David, grand prize winner at the first London International Jazz Competition, took center stage for his special show, "Mon David—Jazz and More," he did more than just demonstrate complete control of his vocal facility, he also shared a sensitive soul devoid of vanity and braggadocio.

Backed by talented musicians led by musical director Mark Lopez, Mon rekindled our love for live performance as he seamlessly segued from jazz, blues and standards to OPM and regional music, and consistently delivered renditions that covered a whole gamut of emotions.

DAVID. Complete control of his vocal facility.

Dynamic artistry

The singer was all heart, but his dynamic artistry was likewise in full throttle. In his version of Burt Bacharach's "Alfie," for instance, his foray into Bobby McFerrin territory was more than mere mimicry.

In the clarinet-enhanced "Summer Me, Winter Me," Mon showed off a vocal range that was stable at all levels. Unlike many pop artists these days, David doesn't push beyond his capacity just to prove his versatility.

So, when he sang "Tomorrow"—a well-loved ditty you obviously wouldn't expect from a deep-voiced crooner—he reinvented the tune and gave it a different context. He did the same thing with his renditions of Willy Cruz's "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" and Louie Ocampo's "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

He gave Michel Legrand's "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?" a jazzy spin without breaking its melodic structure.

In the anthemic "Let Go," culled from the singer's recent "Life and Times" album, the singer created music from different sounds that reminded us of Al Jarreau and Chick Correa's "Spain."

Evening of nostalgia

The 26-song performance soon turned into an evening of nostalgia: It was like being transported back to different times of your life. He devoted portions of the show to the classics of Lou Rawls ("Pure Imagination," "Lady Love") and Nat "King" Cole ("Smile," "The Very Thought of You," "Mona Lisa," "L-O-V-E" and "Stardust").

Special guest Bituin Escalante's short stint was a glowing reminder of her formidable talent and versatility. She dedicated Milton Delugg and Willie Stein's "Orange-Colored Sky" to Mon and sang Arthur Schwartz' "Alone Together" with him.

Mon's collaborations with his talented kids, Nicole and Carlo, were among the show's highlights. David's tall and good-looking son played a variety of unconventional instruments (the *kahon*, the rainstick) as he whistled and accompanied his father in Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Double Rainbow."

But, our favorite portion of the show was Mon's duet with his talented daughter, musical theater actress, Nicole. The father and daughter duo sang "Gabay"—for us, the best track in "Life and Times." The song is about a father's promise to guide and pray for his daughter as she follows her own path in life and takes flight in the world of adults.

The loving, soothing rapport between Mon and Nicole touched us. After all, art is a reflection of what man goes through in life—how it transcends its academic form and turns it into pulsating, learning human experiences.

Sentiment

The song's sentiment reminded us of our departed father—who taught us how to drive. When he was alive, we usually called him if there was anything about automobiles and driving that we couldn't figure out. When he passed away, we were at a loss—for guidance and support. But, we later realized that everything he taught us would eventually get us through all of life's bumpy rides.

Hallmark Channel offers new look and experience

MACLACHLAN AND ANWAR. Topbill "Mysterious Island."

HALLMARK CHANNEL IS consolidating its positioning as the leading provider of quality entertainment with the launch of a new look and programming lineup.

The new look signifies the Hallmark Channel's commitment to offering the best selection of movies, miniseries and drama series in an engaging channel environment that is relevant to the Asian audience.

Most compelling

Mr. Andrew Hanna, Asia-Pacific managing director of Sparrowhawk Media Group, said: "Hallmark's new look is designed to present its programming in the most compelling way. We will continue to provide quality production values and premium entertainment shows."

Hallmark's Asia Pacific creative director, Cameron Craig, added: "So often, we see that everyday events in life are a wellspring for dramatic storytelling. Hallmark offers great dramatic entertainment that draws on the full range of human emotions. Creatively, we have set out to reflect that great stories often exist in the daily drama that surrounds us."

The new look features beautiful landscapes and scenes filmed in Malaysia, Thailand and India.

High quality

Hallmark will continue to offer high quality miniseries, based on world-famous novels, classic tales of mythology, great people in history, and inspiring true stories.

This year, the channel's miniseries include "Hercules," an adaptation of Jules Verne's "Mysterious Island," (starring Kyle MacLachlan and Gabrielle Anwar), William Golding's "To the Ends of the Earth," and the action adventure, "Supernova."

During weekdays, Hallmark's lineup includes "Judging Amy," "Family Law," "Spooks," "Midsomer Murders," "Wire in the Blood," "Doc Martin" and "Hustle."

Strictly for racing movie enthusiasts

By Noelani Torre

BASED ON THE WILDLY POPULAR *manga* series by Shuichi Shigeno, "Initial D" tells the story of Takumi Fujiwara, a quiet 18-year-old high-school student who works at a gas station. He takes care of his alcoholic father, has a crush on a girl, and races down twisting mountain roads in a style known as drifting.

Racing style aside, he does not—thank God!—have much in common with Luke Black's annoying character in "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift."

Attitude

However, "Initial D" is still a macho racing movie, even if Takumi (played by Mandopop idol, Jay Chou) isn't bulging with muscles or attitude. It's about cars and how to get to the finish line first.

If you're not a racing lover or a fan of the comic book, you'll probably find most of this movie boring. Even its fans may find something to gripe about, especially concerning the fact that, though this is the story of Japanese kids who dabble in illegal racing, the cast is mostly made up of Hong Kong and Taiwanese actors who speak Cantonese.

Chou spends most of the time looking inert and sleepy, but it's not clear if that's the performer's fault, or whether he's just staying true to his character.

"INITIAL D." Based on Shuichi Shigeno's popular *manga* series.

Anthony Wong Chau-Sang plays Takumi's abusive father, a perenially depressed former racer who now makes *tofu* for a living.

Wong injects bracing humor and color into unexciting scenes, though the movie glosses over the fact that his character has apparently beaten his son hard enough to leave permanent scars.

Charming protagonist

Directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak, "Initial D" has decent racing sequences going for it, an intermittently charming protagonist, and a slick look that makes it easier to swallow.

On the downside, the frequent freeze-framing and flashbacks are annoying, and the movie never really picks up speed. We don't recommend this film to people who don't care about a Toyota's suspension problems.

Veggie savvy

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

BEING NUTRITION MONTH, July should make us reflect on our dietary and food consumption. A healthy and natural dietary should not only be nutritious, it should also be economical and in harmony with nature's laws.

These days, teenagers lead increasingly active, healthy lifestyles. They are into basketball, swimming and martial arts like *taekwondo, wushu* and *arnis*—and vegetables. We asked some of them why they have become vegetarians. Their answers:

Delicious

"Vegetarian food tastes delicious. More importantly, preparing them does not involve cruelty to animals. You know you're not eating an animal that has been tortured and slaughtered."—*N. Stokes*

"Vegetables are good for my health, and for the health of the planet."—*D. Saulo*

"It keeps me healthy and fit. If you want to live longer, switch to vegetables."—*R. Obmerga*

"Not eating meat conserves water, space, food and trees. More people are fed if we use grains for livestock."—*V. Bismark*

"At least I won't have to feel guilty that animals are suffering for my satisfaction."—*S. Balaam*

Responsibility

"It's a sane society's responsibility to protect people and animals alike from unnecessary pain."—*J. Burmester*

"A clean lifestyle is good for my health."—*B. Titcomb*

"A vegetarian diet gives me a lot of energy."—*N. Balaam*

"My body is only meant for vegetables, not dead bodies."—*R. Penarosa*

As they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. These young vegetarians benefit from a nutritious diet, but they also contribute to the protection of animals and their environment. Indeed, a good example to emulate.

Allan K makes delicious lemonade

By Jocelyn Valle

ALLAN K. His being an entrepreneur may outlast his being a performer.

WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU lemons, make lemonade! That's what Allan K did years ago when he left his hometown, Bacolod City, to embark on a singing career in Manila. Instead, he ended up doing comedy.

"*Matalino din naman ako,*" he quips. "*Alam ko na ang sumisikat na* singer, *guwapo. Sa* comedy, *ito ang usong mukha! Noong araw, kapag sinasabihan akong pango at pangit, nakikipagpatayan ako. Ngayon, naa*-appreciate *ko na ang* humor."

Brand of comedy

Allan's brand of comedy turned out to be his ticket to mainstream entertainment after he did the rounds of music bars (in Manila and Japan).

People behind the noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," was looking for somebody who could share hosting and clowning chores with its regulars like Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon when they discovered Allan in one of his gigs. Soon after, they got him as one of the show's mainstays.

After 11 years on the show, Allan has become a household name. He's now a multimedia performer and successful entrepreneur.

Music bars

What joy does he derive from running comedy and music bars like Klownz and Zirkoh?

"Aside from the monetary reward, you are able to provide jobs. In every branch, we have around 50 employees. You also discover upcoming comedians. *Magpasikat ka ng isa, dalawa, tatlo*...wow! Feeling *mo,* part *ka ng kanilang* fame and fortune!"

Allan admits his being an entrepreneur may outlast his being a performer. "*Kaya nga ako nagnegosyo,* I didn't want to serve other people—I've been there! *Nagkasakit ako sa lalamunan dahil kailangan kong kumanta sa umaga, tanghali at gabi.* Now, I can choose the projects I want to do!"

Winning the box-office battle at indie festival

By Ramon E. Bayron

THERE'S LITTLE DOUBT that we're bound to discover more cinematic gems at this year's Cinemalaya film festival.

The annual movie event is fast gaining a reputation as *the* filmfest to beat in the country—thanks to the dedication of its organizers, the credibility of its jury, and the collective talents of the artists (actors, directors, writers, etc.) involved.

Yet, as the production stage comes to a close, the entries' producers—local cinema's brave, creative creatures—must now contend with a different kind of challenge, one that is arguably more vicious, more complicated, and more time-consuming. The stakes get higher: "Its marketing and distribution time, folks! It's time to sell your films!"

Point of reference

Fortunately, this year's batch has a successful point of reference for marketing strategy in last year's runaway box-office winner, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

The innovative approach to the marketing of "Maximo" maximized the use of alternative free-to-low-cost media outlets (Internet websites, multiple advance screenings), and was matched by its filmmakers' determination to reach a wider audience after the filmfest's run had ended.

Note that, unlike some other digital features, "Maximo" focused on the local market before going international.

This strategy makes sense, because the performance of any movie at the domestic box office is given significant consideration by many film buyers overseas. Their rationale is as simple as it is practical: "If you can't sell your movie in your own country, why sell it to us?"

Viable audience

"Maximo's" valiant efforts eventually paid off. Now, Raymond Lee, Mitchiko Yamamoto and Auraeus Solito's film is widely regarded as independent cinema's most successful project thus far.

This reality is not in any way inconsistent with the aesthetic agenda of the Cinemalaya festival, and in fact complements it. Cultivating a viable audience is achieved by promoting quality filmmaking.

Another observation: Catchy movie titles don't hurt. Remember, before audiences discovered "Maximo's" artistic merits, interest in the movie had been piqued becasue of its catchy title: The blossoming of a prepubescent male? —Who wouldn't be intrigued?

Except for an entry that asks: "Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?," this year's selection somewhat misses such tickling wordplay. Sometimes, it's all about the packaging—really.

New movies . . .

From page A2-3

slant around Tikyo (Andy Bais), a fiftysomething ice-cream vendor, and the colorful characters (Lou Veloso, Elijah Castillo, Agnes de Guzman, Ruth Alferez) who inhabit the narrow *esteros* of Barangay Katuparan, the poverty-stricken urban tenement he plies, and the women in Tikyo's life:

Marta (the beautiful January Isaac), who unabashedly pines for his affections; the distant Sara (Darling Lavinia), who steals and breaks his heart when she falls for an errant cop (Ricky Davao); *Tiya* Mareng (Nanette Inventor), his enterprising aunt *cum* landlady, who falls for his boss (Rez Cortez); Berna (Mica Torre), the precocious kid with troubled parents (Noni Buencamino and Karla Pambid) who dreams of winning a talent search, and his long-lost mother, Sotela (Caridad Sanchez), who he thought had died in a tragic accident that claimed the lives of 128 victims.

Fast-paced and technically polished, the production, however, is bogged down by its awkward lurches in thematic tone and focus—and an anti-climactic ending—even as it unleashes a barrage of issues that includes poverty, alienation, love, anger, corruption, and existential angst.

Yet, for all its weaknesses, the film is a deceptively superficial but affectingly surreal and optimistic exploration of man's struggle to face solitude and his need to find contentment, joy and meaning in a seemingly unfeeling and uncaring world.

Indeed, happiness can only remain elusive to people who stubbornly refuse to let it fill their hearts.

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
PREMIERE
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260160
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY

metropolis star cinema
www.checkthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 BATAS MILITAR
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

THEATRES
[illegible]
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
9 INITIAL - D
10 BATAS MILITAR

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Elena, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 (DOLBY) INITIAL - D

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
5 BATAS MILITAR

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 BATAS MILITAR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 GARFIELD - 2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

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2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

Llanas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 LAKE HOUSE

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 HIRAM NA KATAWAN
3 BALAT SIBUYAS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 MOLATA
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LAKE HOUSE
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SCARY MOVIE - 4
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD

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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
10:30 1:40 4:50 8:00
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
7 LAKE HOUSE
1:10 3:20 5 30 7:40 9:50
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 LOVE WRECKED
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
10 SEE NO EVIL
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 SEE NO EVIL
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:35 6:40 9:50
6 LOVE WRECKED
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:20 2:15 5:10 8:05

METRO EAST 682-8198 • 682-8199
1 LOVE WRECKED
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3:00 6:00 9:00
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12::00 3:00 6:00 9:00
5 SEE NO EVIL
6 BATAS MILITAR
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:00 2:00 5.00 8:00
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12·05 2·15 4:25 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES [illegible]
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 INITIAL D

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LOVE WRECKED

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LIPA (043) [illegible] (043) 312-5670
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-1126 (046) [illegible]
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

ANGELES [illegible]
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

STARMILLS (046) 875-1927 [illegible]
1 TAKE THE LEAD
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 SEE NO EVIL

ILOILO (033) 326-6070
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2 THE NUN
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LAKE HOUSE

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A swashbuckling fun-filled adventure awaits the whole family, so come on join the fun! See you there!

ADVT.

Auspicious TV comeback for Susan Roces

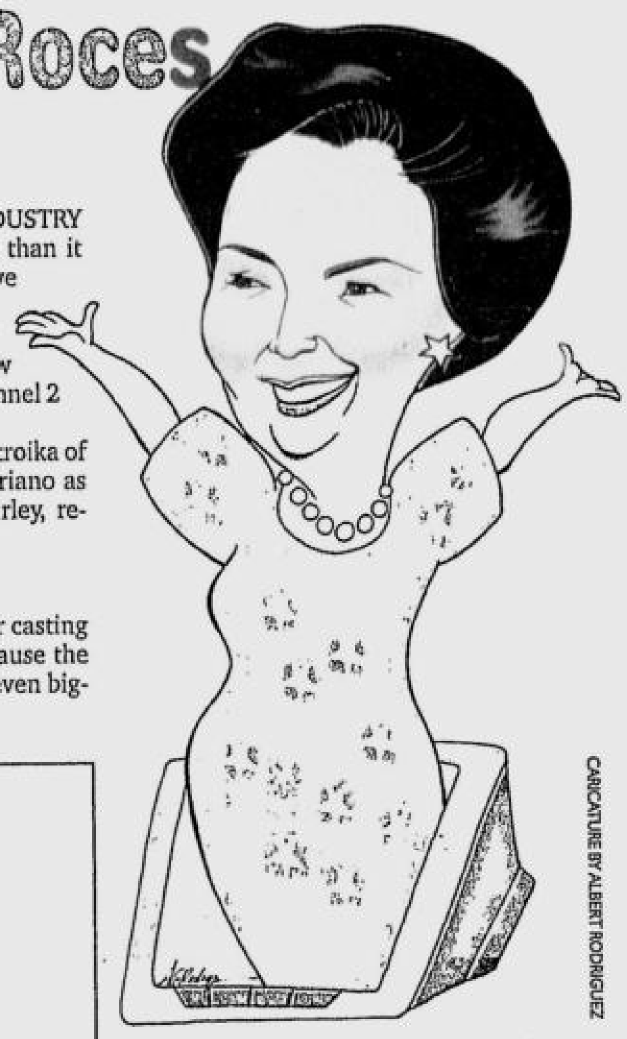
By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY has become much more competitive than it used to be, our leading networks have been unveiling new shows on a weekly basis. Debuting toward the end of the month is one of the biggest new programs in terms of casting, the Channel 2 sitcom, "John En Shirley."

The new sitcom topbills the stellar troika of Dolphy, Susan Roces and Maricel Soriano as John, En (for Encarnacion) and Shirley, respectively.

Casting coup

The show's lead credits are a major casting coup, especially in Susan's case, because the already popular star has become an even bigger personality since she became the bearer of her late husband, Fernando Poe Jr.'s political torch.


CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ROCES. Back to doing what she does best.

It's also been many years since Susan has faced the TV-film cameras in an entertainment capacity, so viewer, especially the younger ones, will be making it a point to catch the show's first telecast on July 29, to see for themselves if the revered star still has what it takes as an actress. Of course, they *won't* be disappointed.

Signature character

As for Dolphy, he resumes playing his sitcom role of John, so viewers will want to see if, despite his advanced age, he still measures up to his past portrayal of his signature character.

As in the past, Dolphy and Maricel play father and daughter. This time around, Maricel (as Shirley) is married, and Susan is her mother-in-law.

In the old "John and Marsha," John kept fighting and feuding with his own mother-in-law, the *mata-pobre Doña* Delilah, played by Dely Atay-atayan.

The sour relationship between John and his caustic-tongued mother-in-law was one the '80s sitcom's funniest running gags, so it's interesting to see that the new show has upgraded the format to a running battle between Dolphy and Susan's characters.

Combustible situation

In that kind of comically combustible situation, Maricel's character runs the risk of being thoroughly upstaged, so we trust that the actress will do her best to get her own comedic licks in, to keep up with her two feisty senior co-stars.

Incidentally, we know that, aside from this new TV show, Susan was recently offered a stellar role in a film, but she opted to pass on it.

Had she accepted, her show biz comeback would have been even bigger, with both TV and movie vehicles heralding her most auspicious return.

Not to worry, though, "John En Shirley" is certainly big enough, so Susan's fans, both old and new, can cheerfully celebrate their favorite actress' decision to go back to doing what she loves best!

DOLPHY and Maricel Soriano complete new sitcom's stellar troika.

'Master Class'

From page A2-3

Dance competition. July 18, Chanting at Dawn Marathon, parade, anniversary program, Balikbayan Night, Disco sa Kalye, and Lights and Sound Showdown with fireworks display.

Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 8 a.m., "JFK." Tomorrow at 8 a.m., "Back to the Future." July 17 at 9 p.m., "Spanglish." July 18 at 5:30 p.m. "Home Fries." July 19 at 10:30 p.m., "Wag the Dog." July 20 at 11:15 a.m., "Before Sunset." July 21 at 9 p.m., "Jerry Maguire."

On Cinemax, today at 9:50 a.m., "Far and Away." Tomorrow at 6:30 a.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales." July 17 at 9:25 p.m., "Mystic River." July 18 at 5:30 p.m., "The Last Samurai." July 19 at 11 p.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." July 20 at 2:05 p.m., "Charade." July 21 at 6:30 a.m., "Born Yesterday."

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SATURDAY *Special*

JOLIE. Her experiences as UN ambassador have changed her view of the world.

Angelina puts fame to good use

By Christine Bersola-Babao

WHERE WERE YOU LAST JUNE 21 at 4:45 p.m.? I was glued to the TV set watching CNN, anticipating Anderson Cooper's newscast. It was a special telecast because, that day, CNN devoted its entire programming to World Refugee Day—and Cooper's guest was Angelina Jolie, who has put her fame to good use by calling attention to humanitarian causes.

She agreed to the exclusive one-on-one interview just five days after she gave birth to Shiloh Nouvel Pitt. She said she was tired, lacked sleep and was still nursing her baby—but, she still looked radiant! In fact, she is even more beautiful now that she's a mother!

ANGELINA/ A3-2

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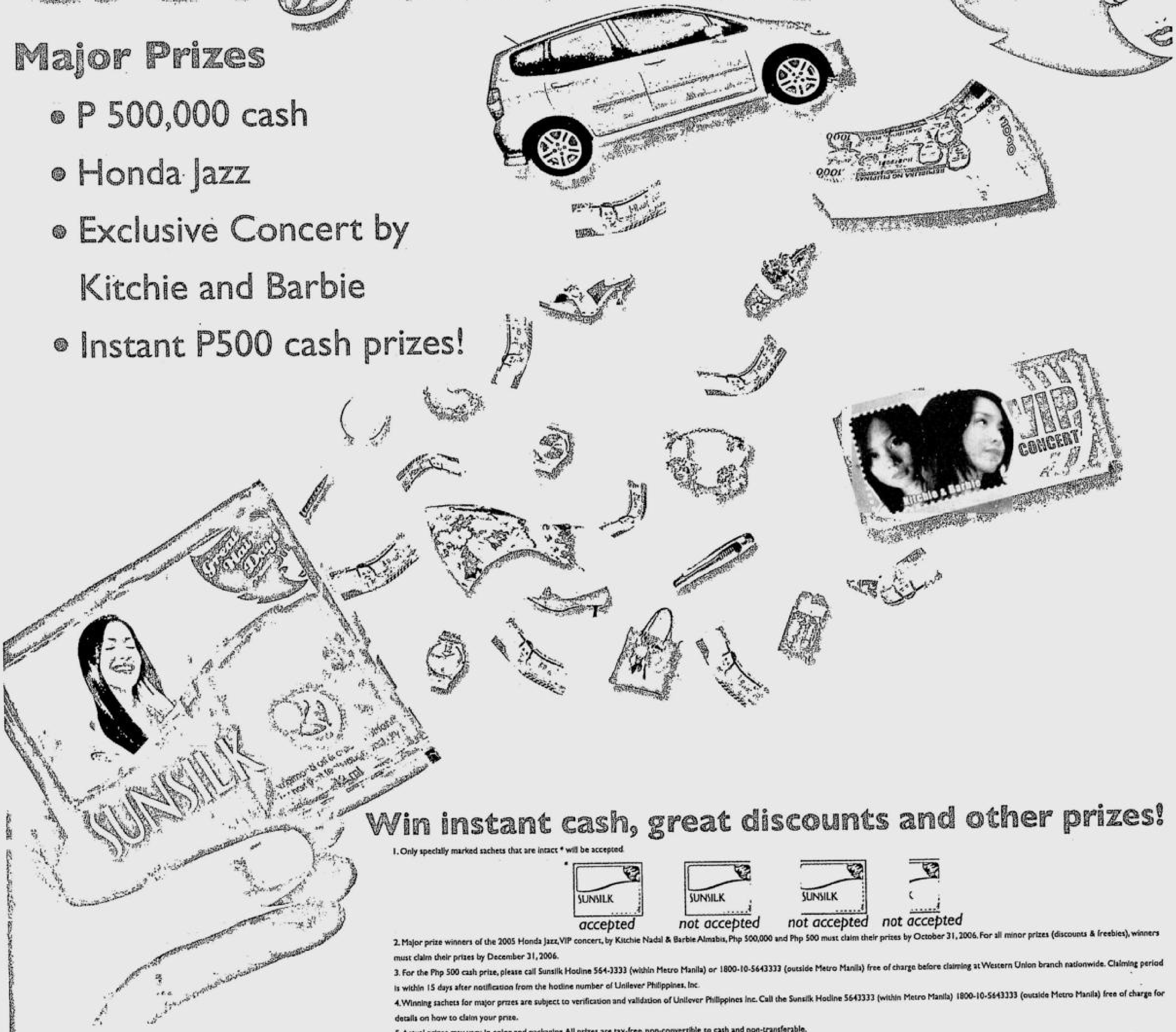

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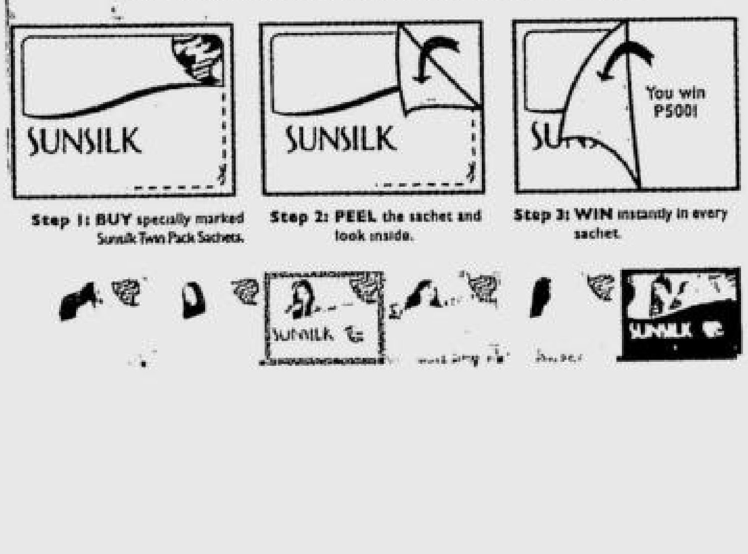

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Kris, Claudine test luck in 'Sukob'

By Remy M. Umerez

CHITO ROÑO'S LATEST FILM, "SUKOB," focuses on the old superstitious belief that a series of misfortunes is bound to happen to a family if one of its members gets hitched right after the death of a loved one, or if two siblings marry in the same year.

The movie brings Kris Aquino and Claudine Barretto together for the first time. Coincidentally, both popular actresses got married this year.

"Sukob" also stars Ronaldo Valdez, Boots Anson-Roa, Wendell Ramos, Bernard Palanca, Jhong Hilario, Glaiza de Castro and Maja Salvador. We asked some of the movie's lead players if they believed in superstitions:

AQUINO AND BARRETTO. Both popular actresses got married this year.

Habit

Kris admits she believes in things that bring good luck: "Every Monday, I wear a red or pink outfit because those colors are considered lucky. The practice has become a habit.

"I used to be very superstitious—I wouldn't go to locations that reeked of bad luck. But, prayers and faith changed that. If you believe in God, why doubt His power?"

Claudine doesn't believe that a member of the family will experience misfortune if two siblings tie the knot in the same year. She and Raymart were supposed to get married just a few months after Claudine's sister tied the knot, but the couple decided to postpone the ceremony.

But, superstition had nothing to do with their decision. The actress simply didn't want the two weddings to be compared and didn't want intrigue to tarnish their special moments.

"I have nothing against believing in omens and lucky charms, we grew up believing in them. But, I am more into believing what the bible says," she explains.

Like his hit movie, "Feng Shui," Roño dotes on themes, that tackle the supernatural. Does he believe in them?

"On the contrary, I don't. The *malignos* in Samar, my home province, are untrue. I don't believe in things that defy logic. But, as entertainment fare, they spell magic at the box office," the director admits.

Rather than being cautious, Bernard Palanca is challenged by the danger superstitions bring. He treats Friday the 13th as he would any other Friday.

Generation

On the other hand, veteran actress Boots-Anson-Roa doesn't take superstitions lightly. She reasons: "These are beliefs that have been handed down from one generation to the next. They're a part of our lives and lore." Boots has seen unexplained phenomena happen, but she believes that everything happens for a reason.

Popularity over ability on 'Shall We Dance?'

By Nestor U. Torre

TAULAVA. Star value worked in his favor.

TWO SUNDAYS AGO, ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?" show unveiled its latest batch of celebrity contestants and their respective partners. The four luminaries included two experienced dancers, Sheree and Michael Flores, and two relative newbies to the dance floor, comedienne Wilma Doesnt and basketball star Asi Taulava.

As expected, Sheree, Michael and their respective partners did best of all. Wilma didn't do badly, either, but she was unexpectedly trounced by Asi.

Towering consort

We say unexpectedly, because Asi didn't do much dancing at all. Because of his height and girth, he was limited to rather minimal dance movements, and mostly acted as towering consort to his partner, who did most of the actual dancing.

Surprisingly, however, the tilt's judges gave Asi and his partner relatively high marks, and their team survived the tilt's first cut.

Last Sunday, the teams of Sheree, Michael and Asi once again strutted their stuff for the jurors and text-voters' approval. And, when the smoke cleared, the previous Sunday's "unexpected" and "surprising" results were replaced by a downright amazing outcome:

Sheree survived, but Asi and his partner defeated the more experienced Michael. In fact, the total scores flashed indicated that Asi's team had gotten the best marks of all!

How could this have happened, when Asi obviously did relatively minimal dancing? Most likely, his star value as a popular and admired basketball player worked in his favor with text-voters. In addition, they must have been disarmed, as were the judges, by Asi's determination to do well in a field that was utterly new to him.

This is understandable, but we must point out that "Shall We Dance?" is a *dance* tilt, not a popularity competition, so the winners should be the best dancers, period. Otherwise, retitle the program "Shall We Shine?," and be done with it.

We must stress that we aren't zeroing in on Taulava with a punitive intent, we simply want the program to live up to its billing as a dance competition, and not degenerate into a tilt where the most popular luminary wins.

Key considerations

Yes, Asi *is* charming, engaging, makes no bones about his limitations, and he *does* do his best. But these plus factors shouldn't overwhelm the key considerations of dancing ability, interpretation, verve and flourish.

Tomorrow night, "Shall We Dance?" will be telecast anew. The plot thickens: Will Asi hold sway over Sheree again through sheer dint of popularity, likability and "A(si) for effort"? Will he finally do some real dancing for a change? And, how will the final vote go?

Angelina puts . . .

From page A3-1

I was transfixed to the screen when she talked about her other missions in life: Adopting children (she already has two adopted kids, Maddox and Zahara, and plans to adopt another one soon), and performing her role as UN ambassador.

Angelina travels at her own expense, reaches out to impoverished communities, and touches people's lives. She shares how her experiences as UN Ambassador have changed her view of the world.

Desperate plight

Many of us are not aware of the desperate plight of refugees all over the world. Families have been driven out of their homes and uprooted from their homelands because of war and politics. Women and children are the most affected.

In Cooper's report, he detailed his heartbreaking experience in famine-stricken Africa. Through his eyes, we saw how helpless children died of hunger.

Ironically, I was watching the touching CNN coverage while I was tending to my sick daughter, who was confined at St. Luke's Hospital.

This reminds me of how blessed I am: If my child gets sick, I have the means to bring her to a good hospital, and I don't have to worry because she is under the care of her physician, Dr. Alma Enriquez. My baby got sick because of something she ate. Elsewhere in the world, children fall ill and die because they have *nothing* to eat!

But, we don't have to look far: People also die of hunger in this country. In far-flung barrios, poor families helplessly watch their children suffer, because they're too poor to bring their children to hospitals. Perhaps Angelina should include our country in her itinerary. . .

Numbing effect

So, whether we see it on a newscast or hear about it from famous people like Angelina, we are always exposed to the realities of poverty and hunger. But they have become a "common" sight, and this has had a numbing effect on some people's sensibilities.

But—stop! They should also remind us that we are all connected as human beings, regardless of race. We are connected by our common needs: Clean food, water and living conditions, and good health

We should not waste the food on our plates. We should be more generous in sharing our resources with those who need them.

We can help build homes through Bahay Kalinga, or we can emulate Angelina by either adopting parentless children, or donating a part of our income to charity.

First pictures

Jolie admitted to Cooper that she gives a third of her income to her causes. And she donated to charity the $4 million People magazine paid her for the first pictures of her daughter.

Yes, we need more Angelinas. But, even without her megabucks, we too can make a difference. Always remember: Even little acts of kindness can go a long way!

JOLIE. Shares her blessings with the less fortunate.

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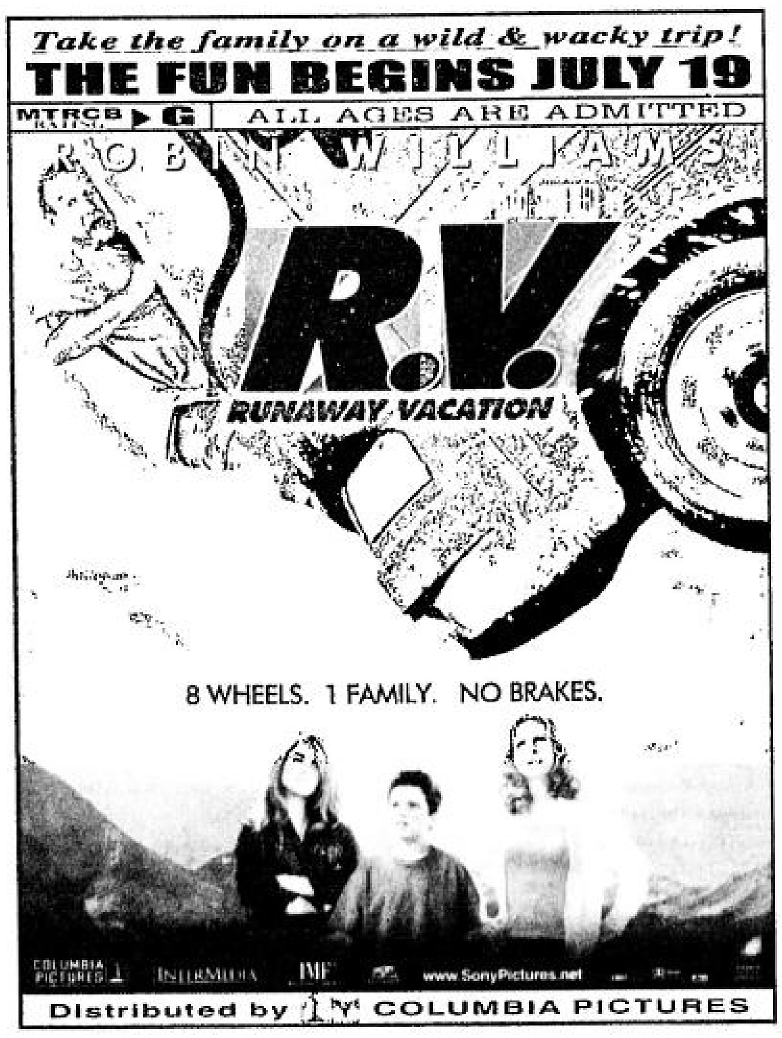

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'Pirates' sequel is inventive but clunky

By Noelani Torre

IF NOT FOR ITS INventive, must-see-on-the-big-screen set design, prosthetics and special effects, it would be tempting to advise would-be viewers to just wait for the video release of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

Like its predecessor, "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," the film's second installment is clunky, overlong, and burdened with an unnecessarily complicated plot.

Devious and subversive

On the plus side, it still features Johnny Depp as the irrepressibly devious and subversive Captain Jack Sparrow, whose presence keeps the movie afloat. There are times, though, when you sense that even he is getting tired of it.

Still helmed by Gore Verbinski, the movie takes off where "Black Pearl" ended, and finishes where the third installment—"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"—will begin.

The tagline is "Captain Jack is back," but Depp's isn't the only familiar face in the cast. Also returning are Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley as the now-engaged Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann; Jack Davenport as Commodore Norrington, and Jonathan Pryce as Governor Swann.

New additions to the ensemble are Stellan Skarsgård as Bootstrap Bill (Will Turner's father), Naomie Harris as the witchy Tia Dalma, and the wonderful Bill Nighy as Davy Jones, the legendary bad guy of the sea, whose locker is where mariners' souls supposedly go.

The story follows the classic chase/quest pattern, with various combative people going after a certain object—in this case, the Dead Man's Chest—and getting in each other's way.

Honor

Jack is after the chest to save his soul from Davy Jones; Elizabeth and Will want it so that they can avoid the gallows; Davy Jones wants it because, well, it's his; Norrington wants it so that he can redeem his honor; and the East India Trading Co. (yes, they actually tried to insert politics into this yarn) wants it so that it can control the currency.

DEPP AND BLOOM. Back onboard Disney's popular adventure franchise.

The scale is epic—and so is the length. Unfortunately, the story can't go the distance.

The movie lightens up in some action sequences—the bit where Jack becomes a *shish kebab* is inspired—and whenever Jack traipses into a scene. But, as a whole, it's waterlogged. And, it sinks in the end, when the audience is not given a satisfactory ending—a ploy to get us to watch next year's final installment.

Homecoming concert, CD celebrate the Madz' latest victory

By Sharon Robas-Macawile

FRESH FROM BAGGING THE coveted grand prix in the recently concluded Florilege Vocal de Tours competition in France, the Philippine Madrigal Singers—or The Madz—have released "Acclamation," the acclaimed group's new album under Sony-BMG, which should delight choral music enthusiasts.

How is "Acclamation" different from their previous collections? For one, the aptly titled compilation is The Madz's first inspirational album. It showcases stirring renditions of well-loved church and praise songs we only hear at Sunday mass.

Compositions

The 14-track album contains, among others, popular compositions of noted composer-priest, Fr. Manoling Francisco, S.J.

At the group's homecoming concert at the CCP last Tuesday, The Madz sang their favorite cuts from the recording and wowed the crowd with their moving renditions. The sterling performance prompted many members of the audience—including us—to troop to the Main Theater lobby to get a copy of the CD after the show.

To begin with, Francisco's "Sa 'Yo Lamang," a staple mass song, has always been a beautiful piece. But the Madz's version has given it more soul, and turned it into a moving love song that deeply affirms one's faithfulness and devotion to the Supreme Being. Ditto for the equally popular "Panunumpa."

THE MADZ. First inspirational album.

Notable track

Another notable track, "You Raise Me Up," touches the spirit and lifts the weary soul. Except for "Hindi Kita Malilimutan" and "Lupa," which are accompanied by a guitar, most of the songs in the album are sung a cappella.

The track listing also includes "I Will Sing Forever," "Anima Christi," "Panalangin sa Pagiging Bukas-Palad," "Awit ng Paghahangad" and "Light of a Million Mornings."

An album like "Acclamation" is usually associated with church-based choirs, but this particular collection is a welcome treat to fans of the acclaimed group.

Versatility

The Madz is known for versatility and vocal range. The new album gives popular church hymns the distinct Madrigal sound that has won the group accolades worldwide.

The recording is a musical celebration of faith, love and true devotion to the Creator. The CD inlay states, "'Acclamation' inspires listeners to partake of the blessings of music—the most beautiful kind of spirituality there is." It does exactly that.

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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 1:00, 4:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 2:15, 5:30, 11:59 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LOVEWRECKED 1:30, 3:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:45, 4:50, 7:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 1:35, 4:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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Strong start for BANDILA.

By Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL 2'S NEW 10:30 P.M. NEWSCAST, "Bandila," came on strong during its debut telecast last July 3, when it became the first TV channel to air Gen. Danilo Lim's videotaped withdrawal of support from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last February.

The late evening newscast anchored by Korina Sanchez, Ces Drilon and Henry Omaga Diaz took full advantage of its scoop, and presented excerpts of the tape with compelling visuals and editing that further underscored the drama inherent in the heretofore unseen material.

Ratings

As a result, the half-hour newscast didn't have much left for its other news reports—on Comelec Commissioner Borra, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, Imelda Marcos turning 77, another mountain scaled by Filipinos, and the record-breaking TV ratings of the Pacquiao-Larios boxing match.

A "Sa Wari Ko" portion had former Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod weighing in on reliable vote counts. This new feature is welcome, because it serves as a "citizen's editorial" that shows how individual Filipinos feel about a current issue. The newscast's brief backgrounder on the Philippine flag was similarly appreciated.

On the debit side, there was only one brief foreign news report, on a train accident in Spain. But, the program's first telecast ended up on the plus side, buoyed up as it was by the Gen. Lim scoop.

Projection

We also appreciated the fact that the anchors were relatively low-key in look and projection. And we were grateful for the fact that ABS-CBN was the first major network to bring its late-evening newscast back from midnight to the 10:30 slot. *When* will GMA-7 follow?

We also caught the newscast on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, and noted that it was still following up on its Gen. Lim scoop. That was understandable—but, we wondered how the newscast would shape up without a major scoop to pump up its adrenaline, and ratings.

At the moment, we note that the newscast continues to pay scant attention to foreign news, and we wish it wouldn't take this tack, because viewers need to know, not just how the country goes, but how the world turns.

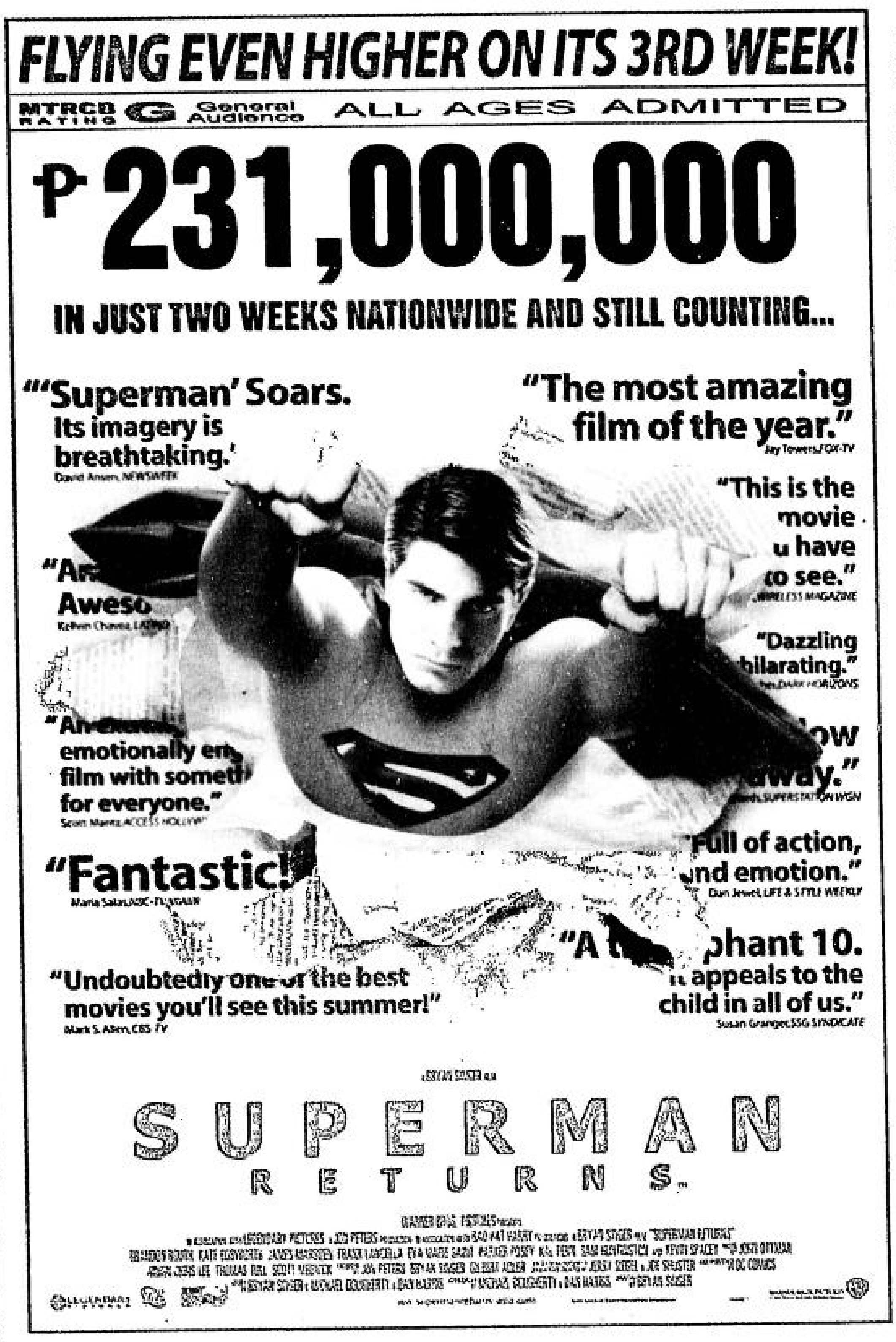
We also wonder why news anchor Sanchez is situated in the studio, while Drilon and Diaz report from the newsroom.

Greater depth

In addition, we hope that, aside from detailing its lead news item, the newscast would also go into greater depth when it comes to reporting on selected events or topics.

And that the production's visual gloss doesn't call too much attention to itself, but is more purposefully used to point out its news reports and underscore their significance.

Finally we note that, last week, the newscast did a reenactment of an event as part of its report. We wish that the production restrains itself from doing this again. While a reenactment provides "atmosphere" and "drama" when no actual footage is available, newscasts should rigorously be about *events*, *not* recreations of events.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SUPERMAN RETURNS

Success is sweet for Kate Hudson

LOS ANGELES—Kate Hudson is lucky—and she knows it. But, the 27-year-old actress' success in her relatively short Hollywood career has been hard earned, even for the daughter of a popular Hollywood star.

She appears onscreen again in the romantic comedy, "You, Me and Dupree," starring Owen Wilson and Matt Dillon.

Hudson is the daughter of Goldie Hawn ("Private Benjamin"), who raised her with long-time companion, Kurt Russell, a veteran of more than 40 years in show biz.

Nomination

She earned an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress in her first big role in a major film, "Almost Famous." If it all sounds like it came too easy, it didn't.

After "Almost Famous," Russell told Hudson that, throughout her career, she might perform in perhaps four movies in which she would have a quality role—if, that is, she were lucky. Hudson said she is happy to have had at least one. *Reuters*

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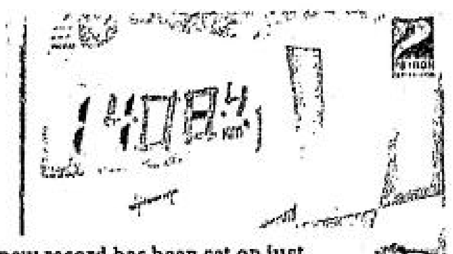
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Stocks plunge as oil surges to new highs

Middle East crisis casts gloom on global markets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LOCAL STOCK PRICES fell sharply yesterday, spooked by a surge in world oil prices to record highs following the eruption of hostilities in the Middle East.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index lost 51.42 points, or 2.3 percent, to close at 2,210.15 after rising 1.3 percent Thursday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the decline, dropping 4.4 percent to close at P1,860 following the 2.4-percent decline in the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Thursday.

"The market will have to really assess how world political leaders will resolve the geopolitical situation. In the next coming days, we may see directionless trading," said Grace Cerdenia, head of operations of local brokerage house 2TradeAsia.

Oil prices surged to a new high of $78.35 a barrel amid concerns about intensifying fighting between Israel and Lebanon, explosions at Nigerian oil installations and the ongoing diplomatic standoff between the West and Iran over its nuclear program.

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING investment management, said market movements would continue to be dictated by developments overseas.

"If oil doesn't go up to $100 a barrel overnight, then it won't have much of an impact on the economy. I don't expect the economy to get into recession. But we can expect a slowdown in consumer spending," he said.

ING Investment expects Philippine gross domestic product to grow between 5 and 5.4 percent this year.

STOCKS/B9

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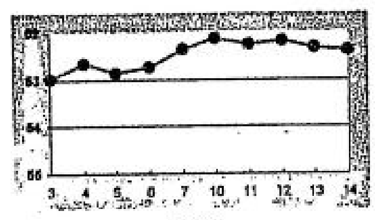

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Banks' bad loan ratio improves

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL BANKS' BAD loans dropped to 7.36 percent of total loans at end-May, the lowest level seen since the Asian currency turmoil of 1997, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The non-performing loan ratio for May was an improvement from the 8.08 percent in April as banks reduced their soured assets and expanded their total loan portfolio from the previous month's levels.

The banking system's latest NPL ratio shrunk by 3.59 percentage points from the 10.95 percent in end-May last year.

The BSP said commercial banks trimmed their bad loans by 6.51 percent or P9.83 billion to P141.13 billion in the month of May due to NPL sales, write-offs and loan settlements as well as an increase in loans exempted from the non-performing classification under a new BSP circular.

For instance, NPLs went down by P5.3 billion as a result of reclassification and P3.74 billion due to asset disposals.

Meanwhile, the banking system's total loan portfolio grew to P1.92 trillion from P1.87 trillion a month ago.

Exclusive of inter-bank loans, the industry's NPL ratio likewise dropped to 8.87 percent from the previous month's 9.77 percent and the year ago's 12.84 percent.

Meanwhile, restructured loans slid to 5.1 percent as a ratio of total loan portfolio. As of the period, 46.71 percent of total restructured loans had turned sour anew.

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities and lowering of interest rates—to give the borrower chance to revive its business.

The commercial bank sector's total non-performing assets—referring to the sum of NPLs and real and other properties owned and acquired (ropoas)—eased to 7.97 percent in end-May from 8.56 percent a month ago. These NPAs were valued at P324.08 billion.

Ropoas alone amounted to P192.35 billion, accounting for 4.71 percent of gross assets.

On the other hand, the banking sector's NPL and NPA coverage ratios fell to 77.63 percent and 40.15 percent, respectively, from 78.32 percent and 41.4 percent a month ago as the reduction in loan-loss reserves overwhelmed the decline in NPLs.

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Masinloc teaches hard lesson: Supply deals must first be secured

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) should first secure power supply contracts with power distributors—particularly with the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co.—before proceeding with the sale of the National Power Corp.'s generation assets.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, also a member of the PSALM board, said this was a lesson taught by the troublesome sale of the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, which was sold as a merchant plant—without an attached power supply contract.

"The failure of the Masinloc winning bidder YNN (Pacific Consortium Inc.) to secure a power supply contract underscores the importance of concluding negotiations between Napocor and electric distributors for power supply contracts prior to bidding, as stipulated in the [Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001]," Neri said in a statement.

YNN's contract with PSALM for Masinloc is in danger of being terminated. The group must cough up the $227-million down payment for the plant on or before Aug. 6, the end of the 30-day grace period before contract termination.

The consortium had failed to meet the June 30 deadline for the remittance of the down payment, prompting PSALM to forfeit the $14-million performance bond that YNN had put up for the plant.

Three months prior to June, Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Berhad came into the picture as YNN's white knight, eventually offering to buy out its YNN partners for $8 million.

But the Malaysian firm said that for the contract to be consummated, a power supply contract with Meralco must first be hammered out.

But YNN negotiators failed to get Meralco to enter into a bilateral supply deal with it.

Neri said should Masinloc be placed on the auction block again as a merchant plant, the same problem would be encountered.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Reinsurance for PNOC-EDC's Fire and Allied Perils Policy)
with Sabotage and Terrorism Cover

The GSIS-General Insurance Bids and Awards Committee (GIBAC), thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the renewal of reinsurance for the PNOC-EDC's Fire & Allied Perils Policy with Sabotage & Terrorism Cover for a period of twelve months at September 1, 2006 at 00.01 A. M. Local Standard Time.

Combined Sum Insured : P12,424,415,090.00
Approved Budget : P 132,195,780.00

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
July 17 to 24, 2006 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM GIBAC Secretariat OSVP-GIG, 5th Flr, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	July 25, 2006 9:00 AM Molave Room 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	August 8, 2006 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Molave Room 8th Floor, GSIS .Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

That as of bidding date, August 8, 2006, the premium quotation has support of 100% of the 60% reinsurance. The market selected by the broker for the lead reinsurer should have a minimum rating of "B++" rating or "very good financial strength" (based on AM Best rating) or the equivalent rating from any acceptable rating company in the insurance market industry as of Dec. 31, 2005 with the rest of Reinsurers having a minimum "B" rating or "good financial strength" (based on AM Best rating) or the equivalent rating from any acceptable rating company in the insurance market industry as of December 31, 2005, attaching copies of confirmed placement of the reinsurers on or before the bidding date.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to Apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P10,000.00 in the form of Cash or Manager's check in favor of GSIS.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations. Only applicants who paid bid fees shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and submit Bid proposals:

The GSIS thru the GIBAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or part thereof, or waive any defect contained therein and may accept the offer which it deems the lowest calculated responsive bid..

July 15, 2006, Pasay City, Philippines.

(Original Signed)
Enriqueta P. Disuanco
GIBAC Chairman

July 15 & 22.

Gov't seen to post surplus for 3rd consecutive month

Reenacted budget puts gov't way ahead of target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT LIKELY POSTED another budget surplus in June due to Congress' failure to pass the proposed national budget for 2006, which reined in spending.

June would mark the third consecutive month that the government would post a surplus. The government recorded a rare surplus of P17.6 billion in April and P5.8 billion in May.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said details of the government's fiscal performance in June would be released on Monday. But he said the budget figure indicated a surplus rather than a deficit.

The anticipated positive fiscal performance in June would place the government way ahead of its target of posting a P125-billion budget deficit for the entire year.

In the January-to-May period, the deficit stood at only P44.2 billion, keeping the government on track of the full-year target.

With a surplus in June, the deficit figure for the first six months of the year would therefore be even lower.

The government has been struggling to put its fiscal house in order. It was able to post surpluses in the past months largely because it operated on the reenacted 2005 budget.

Under the 2005 budget, the government's expenditure program should only be limited to P918.619 billion. This is P135 billion lower than the P1.053-trillion supposed national budget for this year.

The Department of Finance earlier said that while the failure to pass the proposed 2006 budget would drag efforts to boost economic growth, it also had a positive impact on the government's fiscal position.

Because the government is sticking to its goal of increasing its revenue collection this year from last year's, running on a reenacted budget—which prohibits growth in spending—would mean the attainment of a deficit that is much lower than what was stated in the 2006 program.

Under the 2006 program, the deficit is supposed to settle at P125 billion.

But estimates said the deficit for the entire 2006 might only reach as low as P40 billion because of the reenacted budget.

The bicameral conference committee of Congress failed to pass the proposed national budget for 2006 before the legislature went into recess last month due to a deadlock between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

While the House of Representatives wanted the proposed P1.053-trillion budget intact, the Senate wanted a substantial cut and was pushing for a budget of only P1.027 trillion.

Among the projects thumbed down by the Senate were the "Kilos Asenso Movement" and the "Kalayaan Barangays program," which the Arroyo administration said involved infrastructure development.

Although technically Congress can still pass the 2006 budget when it resumes session later this month, its calendar states that it should already be deliberating on the proposed 2007 national budget.

NTC sees boom in radio ID tags for retail use

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) sees a boom in the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for local business and government applications as regulators prepare to release guidelines on the new technology.

In a phone interview, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge V. Sarmiento said he expects the technology to be widely adopted by both the public and private sectors, given its potential for making transactions more efficient.

"This will be big business," he said. "And [the NTC] stands to generate significant revenues from this technology, as well."

RFID systems use tiny chips and wireless antenna that can be imbedded into products and used for identification purposes.

Popular RFID devices already in use locally include radio tags and barriers in stores to prevent shoplifting, and so-called e-Pass devices attached to cars that regularly ply the South Super Highway toll system.

Sarmiento also predicted that the technology will be widely adopted by the Bureau of Customs for it to be able to better monitor the movement and contents of containers coming into the country's ports.

Digitel cleared for new IDD billing system

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) has approved the proposal of Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. (Digitel) to offer per pulse charging for its international direct dialing (IDD) service, instead of the previous per-minute system.

Based on the former system, users were billed only for successful calls and according to the talk time consumed.

Under the present pricing scheme, users will be charged $0.005 per pulse, or for every outgoing signal. This translates to $0.05 per minute. With the new rate, users still get to save half of the previous $0.10 charge per minute.

The NTC found that the rates complied with the provisions of RA 7925, also known as the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines.

Digitel senior vice president for legal services William S. Pamintuan said that the unit of JG Summit Holdings Inc. will now start mapping out when and how it will begin switching to the new pricing system.

This development is expected to boost Digitel's efforts to court more subscribers to its landline business.

As of end-2004, Digitel had 412,618 subscribers, or a market share of 12 percent.

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ISABELA

ANGADANAN

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 768.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 374.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 685,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,019.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 1405, Canangan
Min Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 3 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 25,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-C Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 4 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 40,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-B Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price 450,000.00

AURORA

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Prov'l. Rd. & Cacal Sts., Bagon Linis, Sta. Rita
Min Bid Price 455,000.00

BUGALLON NORTE

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,327.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Casuga St , Ramon
Min Bid Price 285,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 7 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,100.00 sqm.
Lot 2219-A, Barrio Of Cubag
Min Bid Price 74,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 200.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 1-J-2-B Cabaruan
Min Bid Price 485,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 125,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 328.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-6-C Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 551,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 362.00 sqm.
Lot 19, Sillawit,
Min Bid Price : 87,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 450.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 420.00 sqm.
Lot 20-E-6-E-1 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 8,406,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 260.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 423,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2000.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-E, Lot B-5-F-3-S-5,Nat'L Road, Prenza
Min Bid Price : 6,843,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,497.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lots [illegible]
Pr[illegible] (Formerly Minante)
Min Bid Price : 2,246,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,629.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 285,000.00

LOT 17 - VACANT
Lot Area: 354.00 sqm.
Lot 44 Centro
Min Bid Price : 73,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 3-H-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price 524,000.00

DELFIN ALBANO

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 223.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 77.00 sqm.
Lot 599-B Along Provincial Rd., San Jose
Min Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,105.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Rizal
Min Bid Price : 282,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,920.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 210.00 sqm.
Lot 600-A & 600-B Along Provincial Road, San Jose
Min Bid Price 1,621,000.00

ECHAGUE

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 13, E.M. Pinzon Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible]
Su[illegible]vision, San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible] Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible]
Su[illegible]vision, San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 306.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible] Subd., San Fa[illegible] Echague
Min Bid Price 412,000.00

FRIAR LANDS ESTATE

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 640.00 sqm.
Lot 424-C, Friar Lands Estate
Min Bid Price 164,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 28 - VACANT
Lot Area 308.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Blk 3 Calamagul 2nd
Min Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 233.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 191.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 7 P. Apostol St., Calamagul 2nd
Min Bid Price . 458,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 503.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 102.00 sqm.
Lot 7139-A Alinguigan 2nd
Min Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 224+250=474 sqm.
Floor Area. 88.00 sqm.
Lot 3& 4, Blk 30 Rubia St., Greenheights Subd., Brgy. Alibagu
Min Bid Price : 699,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 123.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 237.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2 Capitol Ave., Calamagul 2nd
Min Bid Price : 1,500,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 33 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,916.00 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'L Road, Centro 1
Min Bid Price : 1,010,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 752.00 sqm.
Lot 3903, San Jose Norte
Min Bid Price : 76,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 400.00 sqm.
Lot 2686-C, Abut
Min Bid Price : 70,000.00

ROXAS

LOT 36 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,070.00 sqm.
Lo T5797-B, Solero Nuesa
Min Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible] Site Bantug
Min Bid Price : 218,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible] Site, Bantug
Min Bid Price : 215,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible] Subd . Bantug
Min Bid Price 140,000.00

SAN AGUSTIN

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,826.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 119.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A & Lot 2-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Masaya Sur
Min Bid Price 620,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 29 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price 128,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 20,000.00 sqm.
Lot 3342-B, Brgy. Eden
Min Bid Price 385,000.00

LOT 44 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 324.00 sqm.
Lot 7,Blk 4 Dist.3
Min Bid Price 165,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 178.00 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 27 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price 105,000.00

SAN MATEO

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 290.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 56.00 sqm.
Lot 5455-B National Road, Marasat Pequeño
Min Bid Price . 555,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 48 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,349.00 sqm.
Lot 482-F-4, Mabini
Min Bid Price : 1,890,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Patul
Min Bid Price : 360,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Patul
Min Bid Price 360,000.00

STA. MARIA

LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,084.00 sqm.
Floor Area 168.00 sqm.
Lot 257 District 1
Min Bid Price 495,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 52 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,057.00 sqm.
Floor Area 202.00 sqm.
Lot 1545 Nat'L Rd. Barrio Lingaling
Min Bid Price . 2,700,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 249.00 sqm.
Lot 1860-B, Pascaran, District II
Min Bid Price : 101,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,908.00 sqm.
Lot 2663 Nat'L Rd Brgy. Lanna
Min Bid Price 476,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT
Lot Area, 222.00 sqm.
Lot 2412-C San Pedro
Min Bid Price : 114,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,263.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
F[illegible]
L[illegible] Prov'l
Rd Brgy Kalabaza, Aurora.
Min Bid Price 1,535,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,102.50 sqm
Lot 1-A Brgy. San Ramon, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 365,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 319.75 sqm.
Lot 3508-H, Provincial Rd.,Ballesteros, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 155,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Lot 2929-A,Prov'L Rd., Sta. Rosa, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 785,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 346.66 sqm.
Floor Area: 207.00 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguan, Burgos
Min Bid Price . 540,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,044.00 sqm.
Lot 4479 Brgy. Rd. Raniag, Burgos
Min Bid Price : 370,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,643.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy. Muñoz East,Roxas,
Min Bid Price : 675,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,032.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Floor A[illegible]
Lo[illegible] Blk 5 Nat'L. Rd., Brgy. Bantug (Formerly Vira), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 4,890,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,030.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 179.00 sqm.
Lot 3886-A,B,D &F, Provincial Rd., Basilio, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 2,315,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11, Vira(Now Bantug), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 376.00 [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Lo[illegible] & G.
D[illegible] Sts., Vira, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 895,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,163.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 76.00 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy. Cabantan, San Manuel
Min Bid Price : 1,085,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-H,Calaocan(Now Brgy 1),San Mateo
Min Bid Price 1,805,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-G,Calaocan(Now Brgy 1),San Mateo
Min Bid Price : 1,805,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,451.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 160.00 sqm.
Lots 4-K & 4-L Brgy. Rd. Cabantan, San Miguel
Min Bid Price . 835,000.00

CAUAYAN CITY

LOT71 - VACANT LOT
LA: 6,365.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B,Tagaran
Min Bid Price : 1,571,250.00

LOT72 - VACANT LOT
LA: 500.00 sqm.
Lot A-3, San Fermin
Min Bid Price . 46,000.00

SANTIAGO CITY

LOT73 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT74 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 15,Blk 3,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT75 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 1,Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT76 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT77 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT78 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT79 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 138,000.00

LOT80 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT81 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT82 - VACANT LOT
LA: 167.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT83 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT84 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT85 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT86 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT87 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT88 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT89 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT90 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT91 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT92 - VACANT LOT
LA: 224.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 175,000.00

LOT93 - VACANT LOT
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Lot 7, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
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LOT94 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
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LOT95 - VACANT LOT
LA: 215.00 sqm.
Lot 12, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 170,000.00

LOT96 - VACANT LOT
LA: 184.00 sqm.
Lot 13, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 145,000.00

LOT97 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 14, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price 142,000.00

LOT98 - VACANT LOT
LA: 175.00 sqm.
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Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT99 - VACANT LOT
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LOT100 - VACANT LOT
LA: 219.00 sqm.
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LOT101 - VACANT LOT
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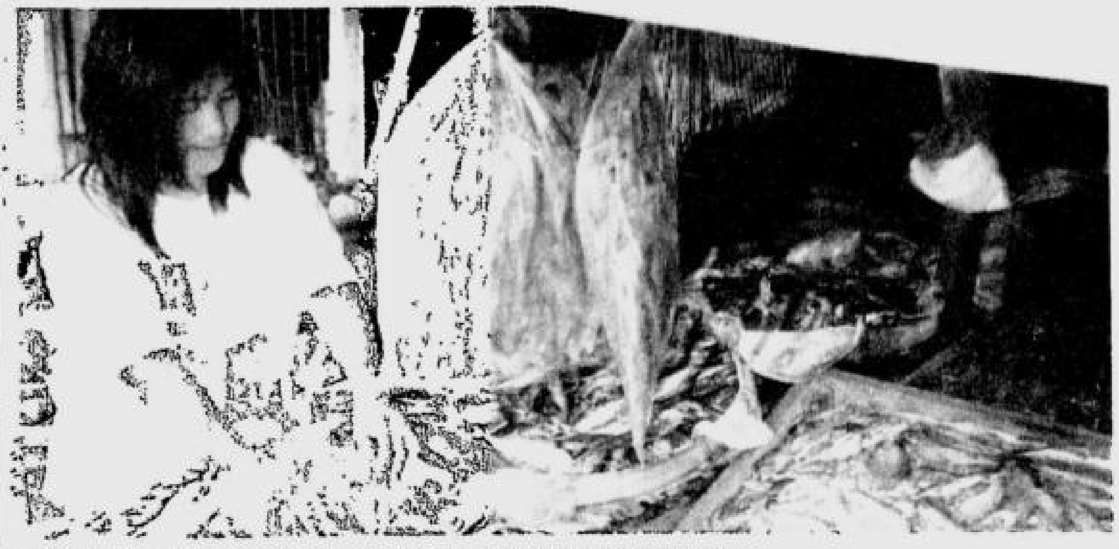
IT firms clinch million-dollar contracts abroad



SOMETHING FISHY GOES ON IN SORSOGON TOWN
A fishmonger sorts out her wares for sale in the town of Magallanes, located in the southern part of Sorsogon. The trading of dried fish is one of the major means of livelihood for residents of this seaside town.
NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA / PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

RP food exporters also posted millions in sales

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL INFORMATION TECHnology firms clinched contracts worth a total of $6.2 million in a trade fair held in Singapore, while food exporters posted sales of up to P19.4 million in an international exhibit in Pasay City, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Trade Undersecretary Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said the IT firms' performance in last month's CommunicAsia 2006 showed their hold in the niche of value-added services like creative content in mobile phones.

"We found out in CommunicAsia that the battle is not just in the handsets but also in the creative content that can be added to mobile phones, and what can consequently increase subscriber base," Reyes said.

Companies that joined CommunicAsia this year included Chikka Asia, D3Systems, Globe Telecom, Innove Communications, Load.com.ph, Mannasoft Technology, One Commerce International, Philippine Long Distance Telephone, and Smart Communications.

"We are proud to have highlighted our creative wireless applications from instant messaging and phone wallets to IT infrastructure and technology in CommunicAsia this year," Reyes said. "Our wireless companies are going to be major catalysts in making our presence felt in the global market."

During the show, Globe Telecom was cited as Mobile Operator of the Year by the Asia Mobile-News Awards, while Bubu Internet in Indonesia credited Chikka Asia's messaging applications as one of the factors that led to Bubu's growth as leading content provider in Indonesia.

Also, the DTI said 22 small and medium-sized enterprises earned an initial P19.4 million during the International Food Exhibition (Ifex) held last June at the World Trade Center.

The DTI-organized Ifex served as the culminating activity of the Integrated Program for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises which the Bangko Sentral funded by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"We hope that with this program, we can increase the number of food exporters," Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Help for agri facilities

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILL allocate a third of proceeds from its recently acquired US commodity loans worth $20 million to finance post-harvest facilities and biotechnology projects.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban reported this development after he formally signed an agreement with United States officials led by Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney yesterday. The agreement provided for the allocation of some 69,000 metric tons of surplus rice from the United States.

The Philippine government, through the National Food Authority, will in turn sell the glutinous, fancy American rice to private traders and use the proceeds for agricultural projects. Panganiban said the proceeds would go to research and development in biotechnology to help farmers increase their yields. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Telco sets sight on provinces

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC. (BAYAN-Tel) on Friday asked the National Telecommunications Commission to extend its landline license to more provinces outside Metro Manila for another three years. The license was due to expire on July 25.

The Benpres Holdings Corp. unit filed the request through legal counsel Ariel B. Tubayan. If approved, the company's provisional authority to lay and manage landline connections in the countryside would be extended up to July 25, 2009.

BayanTel wants to reach the provinces of Antique, Iloilo, Bohol, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Sur, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Sarangani and Surigao del Sur. *Riza T. Olchondra*

PDEX secures SRO status

THE PHILIPPINE DEALING & EXCHANGE CORP. (PDEX), the country's fixed-income securities exchange, has secured a self-regulatory organization (SRO) status from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

By becoming an SRO, PDEX could begin to police its own ranks.

Regulators see the development as a major reform in the capital market, and a way to guard against alleged price fixing in government securities, sources said.

In an order issued on Thursday, the SEC said PDEX's application to attain SRO status was approved by the commission en banc on July 6.

PDEX, which has a paid-up capital of P450 million, is controlled by the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

"What is beautiful about [this development] is that there is a regulator to focus on this aspect of the market," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said. "Any insinuation of price fixing is not going to happen under the aegis of an SRO like PDEX." *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

IP-Converge secures loan

IP-CONVERGE, A SUBSIDIARY OF PUBLICLY listed technology firm IPVG Corp. is securing a $750,000 loan from Export and Industry Bank to fund the expansion of its Internet data center in RCBC Plaza in Makati.

The loan carries a guarantee from the state institution Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PhilExim).

The loan will fund the operation and expansion of an Internet data center (IDC) owned and operated by IP Converge, a registered firm of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

As a Peza-registered firm, it offers locators tax incentives. The data center expansion is seen to be completed by the third quarter. This is expected to increase IP Converge's clients to 100 by the end of the year, from the current 50 clients, IPVG corporate information officer Emmanuel Jalandoni said.

The present data center occupies one floor of the RCBC Plaza. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Highlands Prime hikes capital

LEISURE HOMES DEVELOPER HIGHLANDS Prime Inc. (HPI), majority owned by the SM Group, is hiking its capital to P6 billion to fund present and upcoming projects.

In a disclosure, HPI said it was calling a special stockholders' meeting on Aug. 17 to approve the increase in its capital stock to P6 billion from P4 billion.

Out of this increase, HPI will issue P2 billion worth of preferred shares.

HPI is spending roughly P1.5 billion over the next two years to finish key projects in Tagaytay.

Expected to be completed this year is The Horizon at Tagaytay Midlands. The project is worth a little over P600 million.

Another major project, dubbed The Woodridge Park, costs roughly P700 to P800 million.

The Woodridge Park is targeted for completion by the end of 2007. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Experts who make a living peering into warm (and cold) bodies

By Tessa. R. Salazar

DR. MA. CECILIA F LIM has a job that would make ordinary mortals' stomachs turn. As a forensic pathologist, she needs to go into the nitty-gritty of everything—well, almost everything—that makes humans tick.

Sometimes, she has a dead body in her hands. And, for the benefit of everyone still living, she conducts an autopsy on the cadaver to make it reveal its pathological secrets. Other times, she faces a still living human crying out for justice. In a rape case, for instance, she can correlate the findings of a criminal investigation team with her own physical examination of the victim and, if present, of the suspected rapist.

Lim believes that evidence doesn't lie. After her examinations, criminal investigators can now sift through the inconsistencies of subjective testimonies and pinpoint the truth based on her scientific evaluation.

'Quality control'

Autopsies, in particular, are important in "giving justice" to the deceased's treatment prior to death, according to Lim. An autopsy is a form of "quality control" so the medical field would know if the doctor's initial diagnosis was correct, and if the treatment given was appropriate.

"For instance, there's a new drug or there are antibiotics that don't work anymore, how would a doctor know that the drug doesn't work anymore? The answer (can be found) in an autopsy," she stresses.

Lim does get involved in a broad range of medical procedures. However, forensics isn't the only field where pathologists make their presence felt. Pathologists can also get involved in laboratory work, the results of which are often the bases of doctors' program of treatment for their patients.

Indeed, pathologists can be the "doctor's doctors" playing a big role for your friendly family doctor or specialist. When a urologist needs to have samples examined, when a surgeon needs to have a biopsy of a breast mass, when a pediatrician needs to have blood samples evaluated for possible leukemia, these doctors need the expertise of pathologists. You won't see a pathologist, but they may know more of you than you do yourself, or perhaps even your family doctor does.

Imperfections

Pathology, however an exact science it may seem, is not 100 percent accurate. According to the pathologists present in the forum, all tests done in the laboratory have inherent accuracy levels in the diagnosis of a particular disease.

Dr. Jose Ma. Avila, past president of PSP and the current chair of the UP College of Medicine's Department of Pathology, admits that in four years in a subspecialization on a 10-hour-a-day regimen studying specimens under a microscope; mistakes are inevitable. What is important, he says, are the "clinical correlations" that make pathology reliable, precise, and trustworthy.

Sometimes, the inconsistencies are committed before pathologists even have a chance to examine everything.

"One of the limitations of interpretations is a sample. Sometimes, it happens when the surgeon or clinician is unsure or politicizing the case. Sometimes he cuts in half a specimen and sends half to the hospital and the other half to somebody else. That is a very dangerous play and doctors should not play that game," says anatomical clinical pathologist Dr. Elizabeth Y. Arcellana-Nuqui, a former chair of the Department of Pathology of UP college of Medicine.

As much as doctors rely on pathologists to provide them with the precise, scientific evaluation about a sample in question, pathologists rely on doctors to provide them the unblinking, no-holds-barred truth about the specimen under scrutiny.

Addendum

LAST WEEK'S STORY "PINOY HOPES to be the first Asean doc to reach the Everest Summit" forgot to acknowledge the Philippine College of Physicians Health Forum held at Anabel's Morato, Quezon City. Dr. Ted Esguerra was one of the esteemed guests during the event.

'The grapes of sleep'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

FIRST A CORRECTION FROM the previous column regarding the development of a sensitive tactile sensor for robotic systems: the description of the sensor noted the use of an iridium-tin oxide (ITO) electrode but in fact the sensor uses an indium-tin oxide electrode.

That being said, this week's topic is more natural. Published online last June 19 in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture is a paper describing Italian researchers' recent finding of melatonin in certain grapes used for red wine.

8 grape varieties

Lead author Marcello Iriti and colleague Mara Rossoni from the University of Milan collaborated once more with plant pathologist Franco Faoro from the Istituto di Virologia Vegetale for this study, which looked at eight different varieties of grapes, including some well-known ones such as Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Nebbiolo and Sangiovese.

Iriti et al. also added a 9th sample: a strain of Merlot grapes from the same vineyard as the others but which had been treated with benzothiadiazole (BTH) to help make the plant more resistant to the fungus known as *Botrytis cinerea*.

This was not a whimsical choice: Iriti, Rossoni and Faoro had previously collaborated on studies of BTH-treated vines since the presence of the fungus can mean huge losses for the wine industry. Under the right conditions though, the fungus is welcomed because it can concentrate the sugars of the grape and produce intensely sweet dessert wines such as sauternes.

Several techniques

Based on previous studies demonstrating how melatonin had been extracted from various plants, Iriti et al. tried several techniques to see which one would work best with grape skins. These experiments were each carried out three times using plants from the same cultivar and the same approximate age. The melatonin extractions from the nine samples were verified using an ELISA test kit that also came with two plasma controls.

Iriti et al. found that the Nebbiolo grapes had the highest melatonin concentration, several times over the concentrations found in the controls. Surprisingly, the BTH-treated Merlot was also found to have higher concentrations of melatonin than many of the other grapes, suggesting that the chemical might also stimulate production of the hormone.

What makes this finding so interesting is that melatonin is usually thought of as a hormone produced by the pineal gland in the brain. Because its production in the body is correlated to the presence or absence of light, melatonin is thought to play a role in determining the body's circadian rhythms. For this reason, melatonin pills have been marketed as a treatment for jet lag.

Sleep patterns

If melatonin is secreted by the brain to help establish a person's sleep patterns, and plants don't use the melatonin to do so, does this mean that Iriti et al. did not actually find melatonin but possibly another chemical compound with similar structure and properties? The authors seem to have taken this notion into account, noting that in 1994 melatonin was found in an invertebrate.

Subsequent studies have also found melatonin in plants such as rice, tomatoes, bananas, sunflower seeds, cherries, various Chinese herbs and St. John's wort. Just as in vertebrates, melatonin is synthesized by plants from tryptophan, an amino acid that in turn helps produce serotonin, which plays a role in determining a person's mood.

Additional proof of Iriti et al.'s findings could be obtained if a nonagriculturally minded lab did a study to see if the melatonin in grapes behaves the same way melatonin from the pineal gland does, i. e., can alter a person's sleep patterns. Iriti et al. are now working on finding out whether or not the melatonin concentrations in the grape skins remain as high after the fruit has been turned into wine. If so, this could help explain why red wine can act as a mild sedative, helping people unwind and fall asleep at the end of the day.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Our new academicians

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WE NOW FACE THE PROBLEM not of too little information, but of too much.

Instead of guiding my students on how to look for data, I know spend more time helping them critically evaluate them. Now think about our bureaucracy—the volume of stuff the government faces every day, leading to even more red tape.

Dr. Eliezer Albacea of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) has dedicated himself to making agencies more efficient in data generation and collection. With online databases placed in NEDA, PIDS, BAS or FNRI, for instance, he has ensured that clients can simply download the information they need from computers, rather than queueing up personally at these places. I hope these online databases can soon become the norm rather than the exception.

Faster sorting

According to Albacea, about one quarter of all computer time is being eaten up by sorting through all the masses of data. With his Leapfrogging samplesort, sorting can be done a lot faster. Optimal parallel algorithms are in the same vein, and wiring the UPLB campus with fiber optics has made communication easier. Albacea also works on bipartite graphs, which can lead to the designs of more cost-effective and stronger circuits.

Born in Bacolod City, Albacea received a degree of BS Statistics, cum laude, from UPLB in 1982, a master's in Computing Science, with honors, from the University of Wollongong in New South Wales in 1985, and a doctorate in Computer Science from the Australian National University in Canberra. He has received many awards, among them the 2005 National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)/Third World Academy of Science Prize, the 1996 National Research Council of the Philippines Achievement Award, and the 1997 UPLB Outstanding Teacher Award.

Infectious diseases

Computer viruses are one thing, infectious diseases another. Dr. Thelma Tupasi-Ramos is considered by many experts to be the foremost infectious disease expert (focusing on tuberculosis) in the country today. She has published more than 100 papers on infections and antibiotics, 14 of which have been awarded by prestigious organizations.

Tupasi-Ramos is recognized nationally and internationally. She has been officer (president, treasurer, council member) of the top medical specialty societies of the Philippines (Philippine College of Physicians—PCP, Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases) and international bodies (Western Pacific Society of Chemotherapy, International Society of Infectious Diseases) as well as chairperson in various committees of the World Health Organization.

Born in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Tupasi-Ramos graduated with a BS in Medicine, cum laude, from UP and served her internship with distinction. She became a full-fledged doctor in 1964 and started her career with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1967. A TOWNS awardee in 1983, a NAST Outstanding Young Scientist in 1980, and a PCP distinguished researcher in 1993. Now president of the Tropical Disease Foundation, she is also chair of the National Infectious Disease advisory committee to the Department of Health and the head of the Infectious Disease Section of the Makati Medical Center.

Albacea and Tupasi-Ramos, together with plant breeder Dr. Reynaldo Villareal of Cornell University, were inducted into the NAST last week at the annual gathering of the country's most prominent scientists. Congratulations!

* * *

Email the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

New antiobesity drug gets European Union approval

By Charles E. Buban

A DRUG THAT COULD REVOLUTIONIZE the treatment of obesity and diabetes was finally approved in the European Union, the first to do so after the drug's successful worldwide trials ended last year.

The European Commission has given the green light to market rimonabant (Acomplia), an anti-obesity drug which can be prescribed to overweight individuals who have other risk factors such as type 2 diabetes and dyslipidemia (high levels of triglycerides, low levels of HDL or "good" cholesterol, and too many LDL or "bad" cholesterol in the bloodstream).

"The approval of rimonabant in the EU is an important development as this could be the start for other markets to approve a drug that could help millions of overweight and obese worldwide reduce their risk of having serious medical conditions in the future," said Cheryl Ann Serrano, Sanofi-Aventis (Philippines) corporate communications manager.

Obesity and being overweight pose a major risk for chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer.

Exploit

Rimonabant, discovered and developed by French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi-Aventis, works by exploiting a newly discovered system in the body—the endocannabinoid—which is believed to regulate food intake and energy expenditure in the human body.

Discovered in 1964, the endocannabinoid system is comprised of cannabinoid receptors located all over the body: in the abdominal fats, muscles, liver and brain as well as in the gastrointestinal tract and pancreas.

Rimonabant is the first in a new class of drugs called cannabinoid-1 (CB1) blockers, which specifically targets CB1 receptors found in the brain and in peripheral organs important in glucose and lipid (or fat) metabolism, including adipose tissue, the liver, gastrointestinal tract and muscle.

"The CB1 receptors play a role in weight gain. When this receptor is blocked, a person's appetite for food is reduced," explained Dr. Luc Van Gaal of the University Hospital Antwerp in Belgium during the recent international media summit on cardiometabolic risks held in Paris, France.

10% loss

In a series of trials involving more than 6,000 patients in the United States and Europe, around a quarter of those taking the drug lost more than 10 percent of their initial body weight after a year.

Results from these studies demonstrated that one 20-mg tablet taken every day experienced significant reduction of their waist circumference and body weight as well as improvements in multiple cardiometabolic risk factors, including HDL cholesterol, triglycerides and an estimate of insulin sensitivity.

"Those with large waist circumference (abdominal obesity) who also have diabetes and/or dyslipidemia are most likely to gain the most from this drug. Almost half the adult population with a large waist circumference (defined for Filipinos as having over 90 cm/35.5 in. for male and 80 cm/31.5 in. for female) present with at least three additional risk factors, all contributing to increased cardiometabolic risk," said Van Gaal.

According to the World Health Organization estimates, there are more than 1 billion overweight adults worldwide with at least 300 million falling under the category of being obese.

"Until now we have not had a drug that addresses the multiple cardiometabolic risk factors that put patients at risk for cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes," said Van Gaal.

He said the presence of rimonabant is an important step forward to treat the multiple risk factors which contribute to the global risk for diabetes and cardiovascular disease, offering added benefits beyond current treatments for individual risk factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes.

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People, Events & Products

PHILIPPINE LEGION OF HONOR

The Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of officer, was recently awarded to Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus PAF (Res) by Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita in ceremonies held at Malacanang Palace. The award had earlier been approved by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for 'exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the country.' Shown is Ermita assisted by Marilyn Cabarrus, wife of Col. Cabarrus, conferring the medal on the Colonel.

Real estate investment lectures

THE MATHEMATICS SIDE AND techniques of real estate investment are constantly undergoing advancement. With the continuous development of new tools such as the financial calculators and computers, faster and more accurate methods of computation are made available. With these new tools, it is now much easier and faster to undertake real estate computations such as but not limited to a deeper investment analysis.

Unfortunately, many real estate developers and investors who are still not aware or updated are failing to modernize and make use of these new developments, and sad to say, setting themselves behind the others.

To level the playing field, Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Mathematics of Real Estate Investment" on July 21, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The four-hour lecture will cover explanation and sample problems on interest formulas, cash flow diagrams, present and future Value, sinking fund, equal periodic payment, graduated periodic payments and its application to various real estate situations, how to prepare tables of value using the computer and how to use table of values, calculators and computers in computing real estate interest problems, mathematics of the different method of return analysis like the net present value and internal rate of return method and external rate of return (ERR) method. Participants can also avail themselves of free computerized copies of table of values of the different interest factors.

Lecturer is engineer Enrico S. Cruz, a licensed real estate consultant and a real estate fellow and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. He placed first in the real estate appraiser's board examinations in 1994 and 8th in the real estate brokers board exam in 1988.

Urban is also conducting other seminars which can be attended separately, on the same time and venue as follows: July 17—How Tos Of Installment Sales and Lease-To-Own; July 19—Real Estate Finance And Investment Analysis; July 24—Real Estate Accounting: Avoiding Violations and Penalties; July 26—How To Prevent and Remedy Foreclosure; July 28—Buying and Financing Your First Home: What U Need To Know.

For details and inquiries, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or at 0916-4269174, or at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Freebie Day at Bayview Park

TODAY, JULY 15, IS THE Grand Freebie Day at Bayview Park Hotel Manila, "your home by the bay". The event opens from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

All soon-to-be-wed couples who visit and register in their "Saturday is Wedding Planning Day" shall be given a raffle coupon.

The prizes, which shall be drawn and awarded during the fashion show on Sept. 2, include a wedding gown by fashion designer Joel Pros; signature frame by Pegz Party Shop; elegant bridal bouquet by Peach Petals Plus Parties; wedding cake by Pasteleria Espanola; video coverage by Diocris Videoart and Photography; and hotel accommodation in a newly renovated superior room from Bayview itself.

Also, from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. a seminar about wedding coordination, fashion in weddings, flowers, photo/video souvenirs and invitations shall be given for free today. A dance lesson for couples will also be offered.

For reservations, call 526-1555 loc. 1757 or 1798 and 524-1943. E-mail banquet@bayviewparkhotel.com. Bayview Park Hotel is located at 1118 Roxas Boulevard corner UN Avenue, Manila.

For that monthly visitor

ASIDE FROM THE breast, what is the most important thing women notice when they reach womanhood? Answer: their monthly period.

Generally, women's usual reaction is complete shock. However, every woman in the planet has to go through it. Not all girls, however, have normal menstruation. Some experience extreme pain in the abdominal area.

In order to fight this off, an effective medicine or supplement is needed to ward off discomfort and possible complications. Hemofer Liquid Tonic herbal supplement finally answers menstrual woes. Hemofer is especially made and formulated for women who suffer from menstrual disorders. It helps improve blood circulation, lower blood pressure and increase immunity for women. The supplement has a powerful "tonifying" effect for people suffering from anemia and body weakness.

Hemofer is also effective for anemia, irregular menstruation, disorder convalescence, weakness due to childbirth, heart problems, and hypertension. Even men can drink Hemofer because it helps lower blood pressure.

For more information, call 247-1530, 242-1802, or 242-1803. In the Philippines, Hemofer is exclusively distributed by Spring Vine Herbal Trading Corp. Hemofer is available in leading drugstores, supermarkets and selected Chinese herbal shops nationwide.

CORY QUIRINO'S SECRET TO YOUNG GLOWING SKIN

Lifestyle guru Cory Quirino (2nd from left) signed up recently as official endorser of CocoZen Bath & Body Oil-an award-winning beauty and wellness product formulated by Biolink Pharma (BP) from natural virgin coconut oil. In 2005, Biolink Pharma with CocoZen Bath and Body Oil as its banner product received the best product award by the Philippine Coconut Authority for its outstanding contribution in upholding and maintaining the highest quality service and uplifting the coconut industry in the country. Also shown during the contract signing held at the Taste of LA restaurant in Quezon City are (from left) Arlene Florentino, events coordinator for Ms Quirino, and Biolink Pharma executives Sheila Mae Velilla and Tess Garlitos, general manager and product manager, respectively. Biolink Pharma is also the company behind the dietary food supplements Nutrafit and Exofat.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.pb
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Oriental Garden Kiddie Fair

SUMMER MAY HAVE ENDED BUT THE high spirits and relaxing atmosphere remain at Oriental Garden Makati- an executive condominium that offers a vibrant yet harmonious way of life in the heart of the country's financial district.

This is especially true during the recently held Oriental Garden Kiddie Fair that delighted both the young and young at heart. Hosted by property developer Federal Land Inc, the Asian-themed podium of the high-rise residence was transformed into a colorful arena of games, food, shows and more.

Families gathered to watch the puppets, storytellers, and an interactive bubble show. The educational animal show, which featured talented birds, unique reptiles and furry mammals, taught the children about the different species and on the responsibility everyone has in taking care of them. Kids excitedly joined the different contests to win back-to-school kits while the parents eagerly awaited the results of the raffle draw. Brightly decorated food carts served free mouth-watering snacks like corn dogs, cheese fries, ice cream and tropical shakes: the perfect menu for a festive feast.

The fun-filled day proved to be the perfect way for the residents Oriental Garden to meet and mingle with their neighbors. At the end of the day, both parents and children had easily made new friends. With strong community values, Oriental Garden Makati serves as the perfect home for urbanites seeking a nourishing setting to raise a family.

It consists of two structures — the Lotus Tower and the Orchid Tower. Each provides the dreamy city abode for individuals and families who wish to lead a fast-paced life, but at the same time, desire a sanctuary of peace and tranquility they can come home to.

Surrounded by tropical flowers and lush greenery, Oriental Garden truly stands out in the Makati concrete jungle. The verdant gardens combined with the wide range of uplifting amenities such as: the adult and children's swimming pool, moongate playground, Jacuzzi, daycare center and full-service gym, provide homeowners a home where they can appreciate nature's beauty and lead a more idyllic lifestyle.

Known for a client-oriented service, Federal Land establishes a relationship with its property owners that continue on as a lifetime commitment. Even after turnover, Federal Land makes sure that their customers are always provided with a nurturing home and a tight-knit environment - a guarantee for homeowners and families that their welfare would always be prioritized.

Begin your new life of peace and comfort at Oriental Garden Makati. Call 830-0000 or 889-4900 or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph for more information. Model units are available for viewing at Oriental Garden Makati, Don Chino Roces Avenue Makati City.

JOLLIBEE PARTNERS WITH AIM FOR THE ASIAN FORUM ON CSR

Jollibee Foods Corp and the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr AIM Center for Corporate Responsibility (AIM-RVR Center) recently inked an agreement to formalize its partnership in bringing the 5th Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) to Manila on Sept. 25 to 26, at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Jollibee Foods Corp chair and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong, Jollibee Foundation president Grace Tan Caktiong, AIM-RVR Center chair of the board of advisors Ramon R. del Rosario Jr, and AIM-RVR Center executive director Felipe Alonso witnessed the MOA signing at the Jollibee Headquarters. The Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) is an annual conference organized by the AIM-RVR Center to highlight innovative programs and best practices in CSR by Asian Companies. The 5th AFCSR aims to promote new standards and ideas on CSR as a key strategy in addressing public needs. At the same time, it aims to build a network of CSR practitioners across Asia with its theme: Harnessing CSR for Development and Democracy. Shown sealing the partnership for the Asian Forum for CSR are Jollibee Foods Corp chair and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong (3rd from left) and AIM-RVR Center chair of the board of advisors Ramon R. del Rosario Jr (4th from left) With them are the (from left) Jollibee mascot, Jollibee Foundation president Grace Tan Caktiong, and AIM-RVR Center executive director Felipe Alonso.

Sparkling Mega loves the Sparkling Wega

THE COUNTRY'S ONE AND ONLY Mega star, Sharon Cuneta, is the proud new endorser of the Sparkling Wega, Sony's new line of affordable yet premium quality CRT televisions.

"It is with excitement that we announce Sharon Cuneta, one of the most important multi-media stars in Philippine history, to be the endorser of the Sony Sparkling Wega," said Hiroaki Kobayashi, Sony Philippines' president and managing director. "With a long and illustrious career in cinema, music, and television that continues to inspire and touch the hearts of the public, Cuneta is truly like no other."

The Sparkling Wega Series are powered by Sony's exclusive FD-Trinitron and the newly-developed Intelligent Picture PLUS technology. The FD Trinitron technology utilizes High Tension Apperture Grille which produces exceptionally bright image with greater depth and quality. Meanwhile, the Auto Contrast Optimization in Intelligent Picture Plus technology enables middle range luminance images to increase its potential by 30 percent to boast higher contrast ratio compared to previous Wega models. This function optimizes the contrast of bright and dark scenes as well as improving picture quality by controlling sensitivity, color level, sharpness and brightness when receiving weak broadcast or signals.

SONY
Sparklin
WEGA

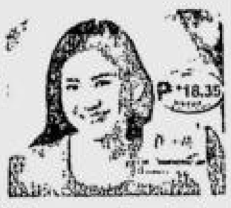
HIROAKI Kobayashi (Sony Philippines' president and managing director), is shown shaking hands with Sharon Cuneta.

Finally, the Sony Sparkling Wega TVs are Real Flat TVs. While competitor CRT TVs have their own flat TVs, their screens are only flat on the surface, but are actually curved inside. Only Sony delivers real flat screens, letting consumers experience natural picture quality like no other.

As part of their partnership, Sony Philippines would be sponsoring her upcoming provincial tour. These concerts would also give her audience a chance to witness grand displays of the Sony Sparkling Wega, so they can see first hand the superior picture color, sharpness, contrast, and brightness as can only be delivered by Sony.

ProductFILES

Charmee All Flow With Wings



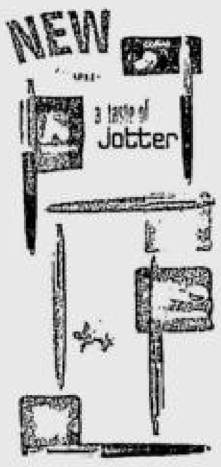
GET CHARMED WITH CHARMEE ALL FLOW With Wings! Charmee All Flow feminine pad provides charming protection in individually wrapped packs. Its leak control channels allow even distribution of flow to maximize usage of pad. Its super absorbent pad absorbs and locks the liquid inside the pad as it is turned into gel. How cool is that? Charmee goes all the way to make sure you are protected when you need it most. And, if providing utmost protection is not enough, its comfortable cotton cover provides a clean, fresh feeling without irritation. Try it now and feel the charming difference that only Charmee can provide! Available in all leading supermarkets, groceries, drug stores, market stalls and selected outlets nationwide.

Splash presents Hiyas Papaya Soap

Hiyas
Organics
Orange
Papaya

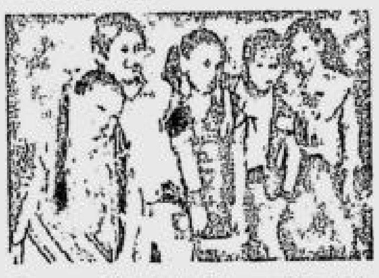
SPLASH CORP RECENTLY RE-LAUNCHED ITS Hiyas Organics Orange Papaya Soap, which contains real papain, an ingredient that provides whitening benefits to the skin. This natural ingredient makes it possible for Hiyas to provide effective skin whitening at a price its targeted market of women from CD socio-economic class, can really afford. However, offering value for money is just one of Hiyas Papaya Soap's pursuits. It also empowers women to feel good about themselves. Enabling housewives, students and other budget-conscious females to be less guilty about pampering themselves without sacrificing their budget for other needs.

Parker serves a fresh menu of jotters



INNOVATION, FORESIGHT AND FLEXIBILITY create a powerful combo that cascades a multitude of benefits to the people. Recognizing each individual's unique taste and personality, Parker, a most trusted and preferred jotting companion since 1954, offers six tasteful additions to its impressive line of writing instruments. Parker packs a plateful of dynamic writing companions in its new collection that will surely enrich the experience of everyday life. With taste as its definitive theme, the newest members in the Parker line feature the vibrant colors of flavors that every individual recognizes and values - from the comforting essence of creamy Vanilla, to the powerful zest of red hot Chili; from the wonder of soft, pale Marshmallow to the potent jolt of dark coffee; from the sweet marvel of Blueberry to the refreshing sensation of green Pistachio. Indeed, life can always be made richer.

CENTERMATES CD ALBUM LAUNCHED



The Center for Pop Music Philippines (Management Division) recently launched the CD Album of the Centermates, one of the country's most promising kids' show group, in various malls in Metro Manila. The Centermates' most recent performance, held in Riverbanks Mall in Marikina City, captured the musical hearts of an SRO crowd. Trained by the Center for Pop Music Philippines Inc, the Centermates is composed of Miguel Raymundo, Jasmin Salvo, Carlyn Ocampo, Christelle Peig and Randell Panganiban. Most of the songs in the album is written by Butch Albarracin.

PVB, SAS PHILIPPINES CONTRACT SIGNING

SAS Philippines, the leader in business intelligence software and services, has announced the signing of Philippine Veterans Bank, a private commercial bank servicing Filipino war veterans and their families, as its first customer for SAS Money Laundering Detection. Photo shows (second and third from left) Ricardo Balbido, president and CEO, Philippine Veterans Bank; and Sonny Halili, managing director, SAS Philippines signing the contract. Witnessing the signing are Camille Canullas, senior vice president and chief information officer, Philippine Veterans Bank; and Joel Dizon, business development manager for the public sector, SAS Philippines.

STARKIDS DAYCARE AT VMALL

SACRED HEART SCHOOL
CON SIGNING
DATE 17, 2006

Star Kids Daycare International continues to expand its operations with the soon to open branch at the ground floor of Virra Mall within the Greenhills Shopping Center. It will be the third branch after Glorietta and Alabang Town Center. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Ma. Teresa Cancio-Suplico, president of Goodwill Trading Co Inc and Ma. Rosario Tambunting-Juan, founder of SHS. Star Kids Daycare was established to provide a safe environment with activities to stimulate the interest of children from 5 to 12 years old. The daycare center will also offer tutorial services. For more details call 867-11-25.

PGRV GROUNDBREAKING, LAUNCHING

Philippine Estates Corp bagged the exclusive marketing of Pacific Grand Residences Valenzuela, the 14-tower affordable residential condominiums in Valenzuela City. Shown in photo are James B. Palit-ang, chair and president of Noble Arch Realty and Construction Corp, developer of PGRV, with Jenny Gallego, marketing manager of Philippine Estates Corp, at the signing of their exclusive marketing agreement for the future selling of PGRV. Also in photo are (from left, back), Nestor Lim (project manager), Joshua Mazo and Roland Peralta (sales officers), and engineer Estrella Cequiña. The launching and groundbreaking ceremonies of this 14-tower affordable residential condominium project was held on July 7, at the project site in Brgy. Maysan, Valenzuela City.

VISIT GRILL 21 AT THE BIG APPLE

All restaurants advertise their menu, but only few live up to what they really claim. One place that meets these expectations is Grill 21, located at the 346 East 21st St. in New York City. Owned by Marissa Teves-Beck, Grill 21 is the place to satisfy your hunger pangs. Their menu, designed by their very own chef Aries Tuazon, is a fusion of Asian, Continental and Italian dishes. Chef Aries, a Filipino, has a lot to boast in his career as he has also served at the executive dining room of the NBC studio, serving stars like Matt Lauer and Katie Couric of the Today Show. For starters, try Grill 21's Mozzarella Bites with Sliced Tomatoes and Pesto. This dish delightfully tickles your palate with the creamy texture of the cheese, generously dribbled with olive oil. Going Filipino, the Lumpiang Sariwa with peanut sauce brings back good memories of home. What's more, their polite and efficient staff will serve you with gusto that it is not a surprise that the restaurant is packed with its regular clients, Filipino or not. So if you are in the Big apple, make sure to visit Grill 21 and savor the delicious offerings they have today!

The British School Manila spends P150M to enhance facilities

BRITISH AMBASSADOR H.E. Peter Beckingham and his wife Gillian Beckingham grace the British School's topping out ceremony of Cluster E on May 23.

The construction of this large four story building, Cluster E is a major part of the school's plan to further develop facilities for students at its well designed and extensive campus in Fort Bonifacio.

This additional ultra modern building will be fully equipped with wireless IT technology equipment and all teaching rooms and offices will be multi-media capable, including cabling for interactive whiteboards. Like everything at the British School, the new building is designed for the highest levels of health and safety

The 1st level, above basement parking, will house an extensive music facility, including a state-of-the-art recording studio, seven practice rooms and a large teaching area able to accommodate a full sized orchestra. The whole area will be sound-proofed and acoustically engineered to a very high standard. The 2nd level will have suites for humanities and modern foreign languages. The 3rd level will have excellent facilities for students taking the International Baccalaureate course, including dedicated common room, library and study areas. Also on this level there will be three English rooms and a drama room able to accommodate 200 people for productions.

British School students have been remarkably successful in the International Baccalaureate examinations, leading to their placement in top universities in the UK in the USA and in other overseas countries.

These successes are a reflection of the vision and mission of the British School Manila which is to provide the highest quality of education, to help each student reach his or her full potential, and to do so within a caring environment which recognizes individual needs.

The British School Manila limits class size and total intake to ensure each student receives individual attention to benefit fully from the broad, balanced and challenging curriculum and from all the many other available activities chosen to develop creativity, talents and interests.

The British School Manila student body currently includes 39 different nationalities, and the school aims for them all to become independent critical thinkers, problem solvers, decision makers, effective communicators, team players, and active participants in a global society.

CDO HOLDS ANNUAL MEDICAL MISSION

CDO-Foodsphere Inc held recently a medical mission that benefited some 400 families in Valenzuela City. The activity, sponsored by United Laboratories Inc, is held yearly to showcase the meat processing firm's social responsibility. On hand to assist patients were company volunteers led by Marites Escarcha, (standing) assistant vice president and assistant general manager.

'CARING BEYOND AIR'

In its effort to further assert customer service, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc, the country's world-leading provider of industrial productivity solutions, recently announced its Customer Relationship Marketing (CRM) initiatives. Underlining the company's program is the official unveiling of Atlas Copco's advocacy campaign entitled 'Caring Beyond Air'. More than an entity, it is the concern for customers as being the most important backbone of Atlas Copco's success. Shown during the launch are (from left): Jonnie F. Regis, general manager; Mark Gimpaya, service engineer (and grand winner of slogan logo contest) and John Silfavan, AIP-rental fleet manager.

PACS
Loyola

LPCI, JOYFUL GRACE ACADEMY SIGN AGREEMENT

Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc (LPCI) represented by its senior vice president for strategic sales, Elias D. Micael III, signed up a special TimePlan (Pension Plan) contract with Joyful Grace Academy (JGA) based in Sabang, Dasmariñas, Cavite, as retirement plan benefit of its teachers and employees, held last June 20, in Salitran, Cavite. Shown (from left) Karl Marc Co - LPCI sales and marketing director, Cynthia Singian - JGA teacher, Elias Micael III - LPCI SVP-SSD, Luzviminda Mahinay - JGA owner and principal, Elisa Gumba - LPCI group business manager and Jose Gumba Sr.

Revival of Surigao–Davao growth area pushed

Industry leaders expect zone to usher trade, tourism growth

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Jeoffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—LOCAL OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS leaders have signified their interest to work together in reviving the Surigao-Davao Oriental Pacific Rim (Sudoparim) growth corridor.

During the 7th Davao Business Conference held in Mati, Davao Oriental last month, industry players said that the zone would become a gateway for trade, tourism and investments in Mindanao.

Virgilio Leyretana, officer-in-charge of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), said that key stakeholders in Sudoparim should take advantage of its resources and its geographical location.

"It is high time to look further and maximize our strategic location in establishing direct trade and investment linkages with our foreign neighbors like Palau," Leyretana said.

Established in 1997, the Sudoparim growth corridor was designed to accelerate the growth of Caraga and the least developed Davao province.

With at least one city and 58 municipalities, the zone is noted for its natural and mineral resources, agriculture, marine and fishery, mining and tourism.

Despite its advantages, however, business in the corridor has barely grown over the years.

Records from the Board of Investments (BOI) showed that from 2000 to 2005, the corridor's investment share was only P24.4 million, representing just one project in Surigao del Norte.

"We can overcome the misfortune of being isolated from the more advanced cities and provinces in the country by transforming this corridor into a gateway for trade, tourism and investments from our partners in the bigger Asia Pacific Rim," Leyretana said.

He said Palau alone, which has a population of 20,000, is looking for agricultural and industrial products.

"The present move to revitalize the Sudoparim project is a highly welcome initiative that should be supported both by the public and private sectors," Leyretana added.

As this developed, over 50 representatives from Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) would meet in Koronadal City, South Cotabato from July 17-18 for a high-level meeting that aims to promote greater tourism and cross-border traffic in the sub-region.

EAGA was created in March 1994 to spur socio-economic growth in some areas of the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia.

The growth polygon has a combined population of more than 50 million across 1.5 million square kilometers of land area with great potential for tourism, natural resources, SMEs, transportation, infrastructure and information and communications technology development.

Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab, Philippine-EAGA Joint Tourism Development cluster delegation head, said the discussion would center on the status of the initiative to promote BIMP-EAGA as the "Dream DestinASIAN" as well as improve air connectivity in the area.

RICE CAKES Roasted rice cakes, locally known as bibingka, attract motorists passing through the Nabunturan town in Compostela Valley.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Copra prices rising in Eastern Visayas

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE MORE than one million coconut farmers in Eastern Visayas are enjoying one of their best seasons as copra prices in the region are on the upswing.

Joel Pilapil, the assistant regional manager of Philippine Coconut Authority in Region VIII, said recently that since the start of the year, copra prices in the region ranged from a low of P15 a kilo to a high of P20 a kilo with the average price placed at P17 a kilo.

Last year, prices were hovering at between P15 and P17 a kilo.

"Our coconut farmers are enjoying attractive prices of copra, which is good for them and to our economy," Pilapil told the INQUIRER.

Pilapil said the high copra prices could be attributed to the strong demand for coconut oil in the world market.

Coconut oil is used as an ingredient in the manufacturing of soap, cosmetics and cooking oil.

Last year, Eastern Visayas, with an average copra production of 470,000 metric tons, contributed $40 million to the nation's economy with the export of copra primarily to Japan.

Other markets include Singapore, China, United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Vietnam.

The region has over 1.7 million residents who depend on coconut farming.

It is the third leading producer of copra in the country with over 649,000 hectares of land devoted to coconut farming.

Leyte has the highest production of copra among the six provinces in the region at over 190,000 metric tons a year. Around 600,000 coconut farmers are based in this province.

PCA points to 2004 as the best season for coconut farmers, as prices at that time ranged between P20.30 and P22.14 a kilo.

The worst was 2001 when copra prices dipped to as low as P6 a kilo.

Pilapil added that with the opening of new oil milling plants in Eastern Visayas, particularly in Leyte, coconut farmers could now gain extra income by selling the coconut shells to the oil milling plants.

The new oil milling plants use coco shells for fuel instead of the more expensive bunker fuel, he said.

"Instead of discarding the coconut shells or just use them for domestic consumption, the farmers can now sell these coconut shells to the oil milling plants," Pilapil said.

A kilo of coconut shell sells for P1.90, according to Pilapil.

He said the region produces 9.6 billion coconuts, which are more than enough to meet the needs of the oil milling plants.

Oil milling plants that are set to start production are the Tacloban Oil Mills, located in Tolosa, Leyte with a production capacity of 90,000 metric tons a year; SC Global, with a production capacity of 90,000 MT, and Visayas Oil Mills with a capacity of 60,000 MT, both located in Baybay.

The Tacloban Oil Mils and the SC Global are expected to operate within this year while the Visayas Oil Mills is expected to be operational next year.

Pilapil could not say, however, if the region's existing oil plant, the New Leyte Edible Oil in Tanauan, also in Leyte, would also resort to using coconut shell for fuel.

China market a boon for RP

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE EMERGENCE of China as a major economic power should not worry developing countries like the Philippines, according to an official of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Archimedes Gomez, who recently completed his tour as the country's commercial attaché to Guangzhou, China, said the Philippines could position its products toward the Chinese market to cure the trade imbalance caused by China's growth in the past few years.

Gomez, who graced the closing rites of Benguet State University's 90th founding anniversary, cited the market potential of some of the country's products in China.

Gomez said the Cordillera could export its organic vegetables, processed food products, fancy rice and mineral ore.

He also cited services in education, medical care and bioengineering as other possible ventures into China.

But Gomez's position that China was more an opportunity than a threat drew flak from members of the academe who echoed the complaints of Cordillera farmers over the unabated entry into the country of Chinese vegetables, particularly carrots.

Dr. Gloria Lee, director of BSU's Institute of Public Administration, said there was no way China's 1.3 billion population could become a promising market for the region's vegetables since Chinese vegetables had already penetrated the domestic market.

Chinese vegetables, imported legally or smuggled, had deprived local farmers of their market in Metro Manila, she said.

But Gomez said Chinese vegetables should not be a distraction for local products if the latter would be produced following global standards.

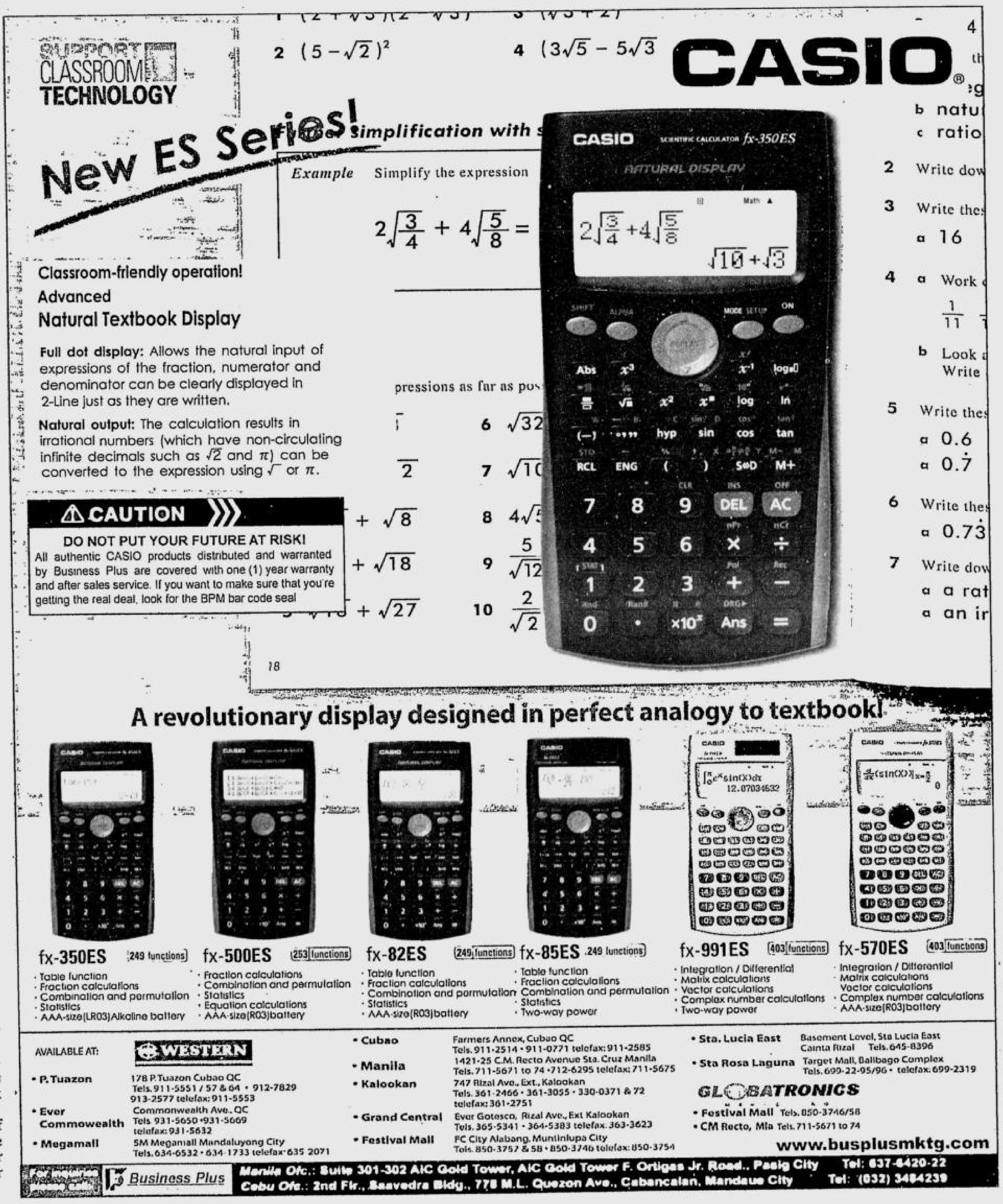
Gomez said it is not only in agriculture where the country could take advantage of China's decision to adopt an open market after its membership in the World Trade Organization in 2001.

He cited the experience of several Chinese-Filipino owned companies that are now reaping dividends in China.

Gomez said part of the $2.5-$3 billion accumulated investments in China came from Philippine-based firms like Solid Industrial, Liwayway Corp., San Miguel Corp., Allied Bank, Metrobank and SM City in Xiamen, China.

The Philippines, he said, could also become an alternative for foreign investors in case their Chinese operations break down.

Gomez said this was seen in the cases of Motorola, Nokia and Philips, which have put up branches both here and in China for testing and assembly of semiconductor chips.



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15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skylnet.net

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 221-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 /Fax (082) 221-9979

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CSB HOTEL
Arellan Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2) 728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Basic meditation classes at Mandarin Oriental's yoga studio

ACHIEVE WELLNESS OF MIND, BODY, and spirit at Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Yoga Studio, with basic meditation classes beginning July 17.

The basic meditation classes can stabilize emotional changes and prevent abnormal functions of the body's vital organs. Basic meditation not only restrains the sense organs, but also controls the autonomic nervous system. The meditation course spans six one-hour sessions, at P2,000 per course. Two classes a day will be held from Monday to Saturday, at 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mandarin Oriental's Yoga exercises, proffer the Patanjali Yoga Sutra philosophy which forms the theoretical and philosophical base of the Raja Yoga discipline (considered the highest form of yoga), combined with Naturopathy (a branch of medicine often referred to as "drugless therapy" that is based mainly on the ancient practice of the application of the simple laws of nature). The eight components of yoga as based on Patanjali Yoga Sutra's theory, are: restraint, observance of austerity, physical postures, breathing exercise, restraining of sense organs, contemplation, meditation, and samadhi.

These steps are vital in the practice of yoga as they have potential in improving social behavior, physical health, and circulation of oxygenated blood in the body; and restraining the sense organs and the mind thereby, achieving tranquility and serenity. Some of the advantages of practicing an integrated type of yoga include the prevention of psychosomatic diseases, and the improvement of an individual's resistance and ability to endure stressful situations.

The hotel's Yoga studio located on the 18th floor is the country's very first yoga studio in a deluxe hotel which opened in 2002, complementing the hotel's luxurious Thai-inspired haven of tranquility, The Oriental Spa. Towels and yoga mats are provided in the Yoga studio, with a maximum of 14 students that may be admitted per class. Special classes may also be arranged for a minimum of six sessions for at least four to five students.

For reservations and enquiries on the schedule of classes, call 750-8888 extension 2103.

A taste of the Orient at Dusit Hotel

THIS MONTH OF JULY 2006, Dusit Hotel Nikko brings you to a whole new level of dining experience as they offer you a "Taste of the Orient."

Take a sojourn at The Café and partake on an epicurean adventure to the best of Asian and Western cuisine this month of July. The Café is your passport to dining heaven with its daily thematic buffet offerings taking you to a gastronomic journey to dining nirvana with a taste of world-class selections as revealed everyday of the week.

Benjarong Royal Thai Cuisine restaurant offers you 'Lite Thai.' Benjarong's Chef Tun creates five a la carte items featuring authentic Thai salad creations from July 10 to 23.

At Benkay-Authentic Japanese Cusine, its seasoned chef, Yoshiaki Tomiyama, creates for the month of July a succulent collection of authentic Japanese dishes to give you a taste of his homeland. Enjoy the 'Donburi' Fair in July and choose from among a selection of chef Tomiyama's very own rice toppings ranging from meat and seafood items. Each order is served with an appetizer, pickles, miso soup and dessert.

For a taste of authentic Vietnamese cuisine, Thien Duong Vietnamese restaurant's chef Nguyen creates five a la carte menu items as inspired by the vibrant cities of Saigon and Hanoi.

A perfect Filipino offering and a hearty choice for the month of July, Fiesta San Miguel brings back its popular 'Pinoy Hot Pot.' The 'Pinoy Hot Pot' is good for a family of 3 to 4 persons that complements the Filipino tradition of a hefty family dining experience. It offers 2 kinds of broth that blends well with a variety of ingredients consisting of vegetables and choice of meat or seafood. The 'Seafood Hot Pot' is priced at P750++ per order while the 'Meat Hot Pot' is priced at P650++ per order.

Enjoy unlimited servings of fresh brewed beer from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for only P350 nett per person and find out why fresh San Miguel pale or light beer is best enjoyed, bottoms up!

Chocolate reigns supreme in July at the Lobby Lounge with 'Choco-Bicho.' The perfect complement for a mid-day break amidst the chilly month of July is a fresh mug of satisfying hot chocolate served with "bicho-bicho" bread on the side. Priced at only P220++ per person.

Unwind and drink splendid wine while you listen to the soothing voice of the nightly lounge singer amidst the relaxing ambience of the Lobby Lounge. Choose from an invigorating collection of red and white wines to recharge weary spirits and prep up your evening with fabulous friends. Heighten your senses with our Wine Buffet from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. for only P500++ per person.

Dusit Hotel Nikko is the perfect venue for you to experience the art of authentic Oriental dining, which gives you more reason to include the hotel in your itinerary this month of July.

For dining reservations, call 867-3333.

Waterfront brings back Indulgence 2006

WITH THE OVERWHELMING SUCCESS OF Waterfront Hotels & Casinos' Indulgence program, the country's largest Filipino-owned Hotel chain is in the thick of things for another round of irresistible offerings. "With the relaunch of Indulgence 2006, guests now have the chance to relive and enjoy delicious perks and generous discounts in any of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos across the country," delivers WHC corporate sales and marketing director Joey Bernardino.

Celebrate 4 with 1

WHC's Indulgence program 2006 has an added perk: It now includes in its expanding roster of properties their newest acquisition, the newly renovated and revamped Manila Pavilion Hotel. "Indulgence is a celebration of 4 hotels with 1 booklet, " says Bernardino. Another added premium is a new feature for 2006: Instead of the 5+1 promo in previous years, this years' Indulgence will feature value for money and a straight up rate of just P10,000 each. Each booklet entitles the bearer to four over-night room accommodations in any of the following hotel properties of their choice: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, both located in Cebu City; Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao and Manila Pavilion Hotel. Moreover, the booklet also holds one additional voucher that entitles guests to a delicious complimentary buffet for one person for every 4 paying guests in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's UNO, Waterfront Airport Hotel & casino Mactan's UNO and in Manila Pavilion Hotel's newly re-opened Seasons.

A concourse of indulgences

Added value, convenience and affordability comes in the form of one pre-paid booklet containing 4 overnight privilege vouchers. And as if that weren't enough, each Hotel property throws in additional privileges indicated in their coupon. Privileges such as complimentary access to Citigym, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's newly-renovated Fitness Center, or a 50 percent discount on drinks at Boulvar, Manila Pavilion's chic lounge in the Hotel lobby, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., plus a standard 10 percent off on all Hotel-owned restaurants, and so much more!

Indulgence 2006 booklets are limited in supply and its vouchers are valid up to Dec. 31. For inquiries and reservations, one may call the Waterfront Hotels & Casinos Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02)687-0888, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino at (032)232-6888, Waterfront Airport Hotel Casino Mactan at (032)340-4888, Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02)526-1212 and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao at (082)233-2881. Interested parties may avail of Indulgence 2006 booklets at the Front Offices and Business Centers of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos, Manila Sales and Reservations Office and Accredited Travel Agencies.

People, Events & Products

2nd Ambassador's Tour

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, Cavite Governor Ayong Maliksi and officials of his administration will officially meet members of Delaware, New Jersey and Philadelphia delegation to the 2nd Ambassador and Consul General Tour to Kawit, Cavite, hours after their arrival in the Philippines on July 15. Governor Maliksi will be accompanied by his various Mayors and members of the Historical Society garbed in their 17th century Barong, Baro at Saya and will welcome the delegates in the historic window of Aguinaldo Shrine. The flag raising ceremony will be led by members of the illustrious Aguinaldo family including Prime Minister Cesar Virata, whose forefather personally designed the flag and its symbols while in exile in Hong Kong. A welcome tea, press conference and a business launch at the Island Cove family resort will follow. In the evening, reception dinner and dance will be held in the estate of famed hairdresser and philanthropist Ricky Reyes. Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando will also entertain the group with a tour of her shoe cottage industry on July 19. On July 20, Ricky Reyes' corporate group the Golden Sunset Resort and Manila Bay Beauty Holiday will host a lunch, hair and foot spa. An expansive Business Matching Conference will be led by Mina Gabor, president of PSMEBDF, on July 18.

2nd Reg
P5
P2

EXTRA JOSS' 2ND RAFFLE DRAW

Extra Joss recently held the 2nd regional raffle draw (GMA area) of 'Extra Joss Extra La-Cash Part 2' at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. Extra Joss gave away P50,000 for the 1st prize, P20,000 for the 2nd prize and P10,000 for the 3rd prize. Similar draws were held at CSI City Mall Dagupan, E-Mall Cebu City and SM City Cagayan De Oro. Arnelita Himala of Marikina, Niño Cubacub of Tarlac, Andrielex Gargar of Mandaue and Minaluna Lastimosa of Cagayan de Oro each won P50,000 as the first prize winners of the GMA, Dagupan, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro raffle draws respectively. The non-winning entries will still have a chance to win P1M for the grand draw on July 22. Photo shows (from left) Francis Magalona; Radenabeng Bambang Sugianto, area manager of PT Bintang Toedjoe; Paolo Ballesteros and Joel Ubalde, BFAD representative announcing the 1st prize winner (GMA).

Real Bank Celebrates Anniv with Alkansya '06

THE REAL BANK REACHES A SIGNIFICANT milestone in its banking career as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary tagged as Alkansya 2006 Ang Lakas ng Kabuhayan Ay Nakasalalay Sa Yamang dulot ng tamang Aral on July 17. True to its new image and dictum of 'Upholding Filipino Values and Supporting Filipino Dreams' launched in 2004, The Real Bank, which was then placed under the leadership and management of Jose G. Araullo and Alfredo S. Barretto - both well known and experienced bankers and business icons, strived to evolve from its reserved and low-profile image to that which is aggressive, courageous, pro-active and highly professional. Serving as the cornerstone of this new image is the Bank's savings advocacy project with the Department of Education called "Bata Bata… Mag-impok at Magsinop" which, to date, has already won three major awards that include citations from the 2005 Asian Banking Awards, the National Consumers' Quality Awards of 2005 for Family and Community Advocacy and the 2005 Global Excellence Award for Best Family and community Advocacy.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 14, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	31	31.5	72,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50	49	49.5	903,700
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	73.5	74	73.5	74	89,900
International Exch. Bank	42	42	42	42	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35	34.5	35	1,841,800
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	26,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	25,600
Security Bank Corp.	46	46	44	45	271,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	43	43	43	43	700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.64	1.66	1,747,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	31	31	31	31	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1640	1610	1630	750
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	211	212	211	212	1,250
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2000	1995	2000	2,010
Ivantage Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,250,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	41,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45	45.5	45	45	475,100
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15	26,600
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	24	24	1,719,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	4,906,000
Petron Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.8	3.8	6,220,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	30,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	797,500
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65	66	48,900
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71	71.5	111,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.5	20	19.5	20	197,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	10,420,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	2,068,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	20,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.26	310,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1	1	1	1	15,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	1	1	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities, Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.0825	7,300,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	400,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	402.5	402.5	392.5	392.5	48,790
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	770,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.84	2,698,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	320,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.93	680,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	6,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	23,300
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	804,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.7	85,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.2	6.2	5.8	6.2	418,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	2,500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	800,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	213	210	210	17,960
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	27,533,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.36	0.32	0.36	100,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	3,138,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.2	2.08	2.2	27,231,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,580,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	1,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	4,551,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	800,000
City & Land Developers	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	1,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	340,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	5,094,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,870,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	186,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	31,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.7	911,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	5,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	878,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	960	960	950	950	13,920
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.25	3.4	1,120,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1900	1905	1845	1860	111,360
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	2,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	14,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	150,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.5	14.5	13.75	13.75	123,400
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,555,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	250,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc	3	3	3	3	10,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	61,000
Paxys Inc.	11	11	11	11	7,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.55	3.55	3.35	3.4	1,448,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.4	1,304,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	28,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	273,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	13,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	1,160,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	371,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	57,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.006	0.006	60,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.15	4	4.1	3,241,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.1	7,320,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	3,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,640,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	950,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	510,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	379,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	357,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	148,500
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	59,000

CURRENCIES

July 14, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787836	1.000000	52.2400
Japan	Yen	0.006830	0.008669	0.4529
United Kingdom	Pound	1.452218	1.843300	96.2940
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101317	0.128602	6.7182
Switzerland	Franc	0.640830	0.813405	42.4923
Canada	Dollar	0.696276	0.883783	46.1688
Singapore	Dollar	0.497308	0.631233	32.9756
Australia	Dollar	0.593876	0.753807	39.3789
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.089916	2.652731	138.5787
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210061	0.266631	13.9288
Brunei	Dollar	0.495743	0.629247	32.8719
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020809	0.026413	1.3798
Uae	Dirham	0.214506	0.272272	14.2235
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.269300	66.3082
Argentina	Peso	0.255376	0.324149	16.9335
Brazil	Real	0.356955	0.453083	23.6691
Denmark	Kroner	0.134029	0.170123	8.8872
India	Rupee	0.017068	0.021664	1.1317
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215403	0.273411	14.2830
Mexico	New Peso	0.071213	0.090391	4.7220
New Zealand	Dollar	0.487191	0.618391	32.3047
South Africa	Rand	0.109727	0.139276	7.2758
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.001054	0.0551
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024209	0.030729	1.6053

Stocks plunge . . .

From page B1

Garcia said investors were likely to remain cautious this week. "We are just going to follow regional trends in the markets."

Among other active stocks, Ayala Corp. fell 4.3 percent to P392.50, Bank of the Philippine Islands lost 2.9 percent to P49.50, Globe Telecom gave up 2.1 percent to P950, and International Container Terminal shed 5.2 percent to P13.75.

All subindexes retreated, while the decliners led gainers 52 to 17, with 53 stocks unchanged.

A slew of positive domestic economic data yesterday took a backseat as investors focused on overseas concerns, Cerdenia said.

"Most of the data were already known to the bourse. What's happening now is we have all these anxieties damping whatever positive news we have," she said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that OFW remittances rose 15 percent in May to more than $1 billion on increased deployment of Filipino workers.

The monetary authority also disclosed that commercial banks' bad loan ratio as of the end of May fell to 7.36 percent from the previous month's 8.08 percent, as the sector continued to dispose of nonperforming loans while increasing lending activities.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves also reiterated that the government was sticking to its fiscal reform program, amid reports of efforts by some public officials to make changes to accommodate increased government spending.

With a report from AFP

ING raises RP bond rating

By Michelle V. Remo

LONDON-BASED INVESTMENT BANK ING has raised its assessment of Philippine dollar-denominated bonds from "neutral" to "overweight," citing the credibility of the government's commitment to achieve its deficit-reduction goals as reason for the revision.

An "overweight" assessment is a recommendation for clients to buy the bonds, while "neutral" is a suggestion to hold off plans to buy.

"We now consider the government's commitment to balancing the budget by 2008 solid," ING said in a report.

The bank noted the government's move to reject proposals to relax the deficit target for 2007 and delay the attainment of a zero budget deficit, saying this showed political will to improve the country's fiscal environment.

ING opined that keeping on track of the fiscal program would finally help the Philippines finally catch an elusive credit-rating upgrade.

The decision of ING to improve its assessment of Philippine bonds followed the pronouncement from the Department of Finance that the government would stick to its fiscal program. The program states that the deficit would be reduced from the programmed P125 billion this year to only P63 billion next year and to zero by 2008.

Teves said the government could still accommodate the need to improve infrastructure spending without abandoning the deficit-reduction goals.

The government has been urged to make its deficit-reduction program less aggressive to give due focus on the need for infrastructure development. Poor level of infrastructure has been blamed partly for the country's poor performance in attracting foreign investments.

"We concur with the central bank, which recently warned that an increase in the 2007 fiscal deficit target could seriously dent investor confidence," ING said.

"The demonstration of political will by the administration is in keeping with its track record over the last two years (of staying within deficit ceilings). The President, through her economic team, has implemented a challenging fiscal program that has produced significant fiscal consolidation," ING further said.

Last year, the government posted a deficit of only P146.8 billion, or 21.5 percent lower than the target of P187 billion.

DISCLOSURES

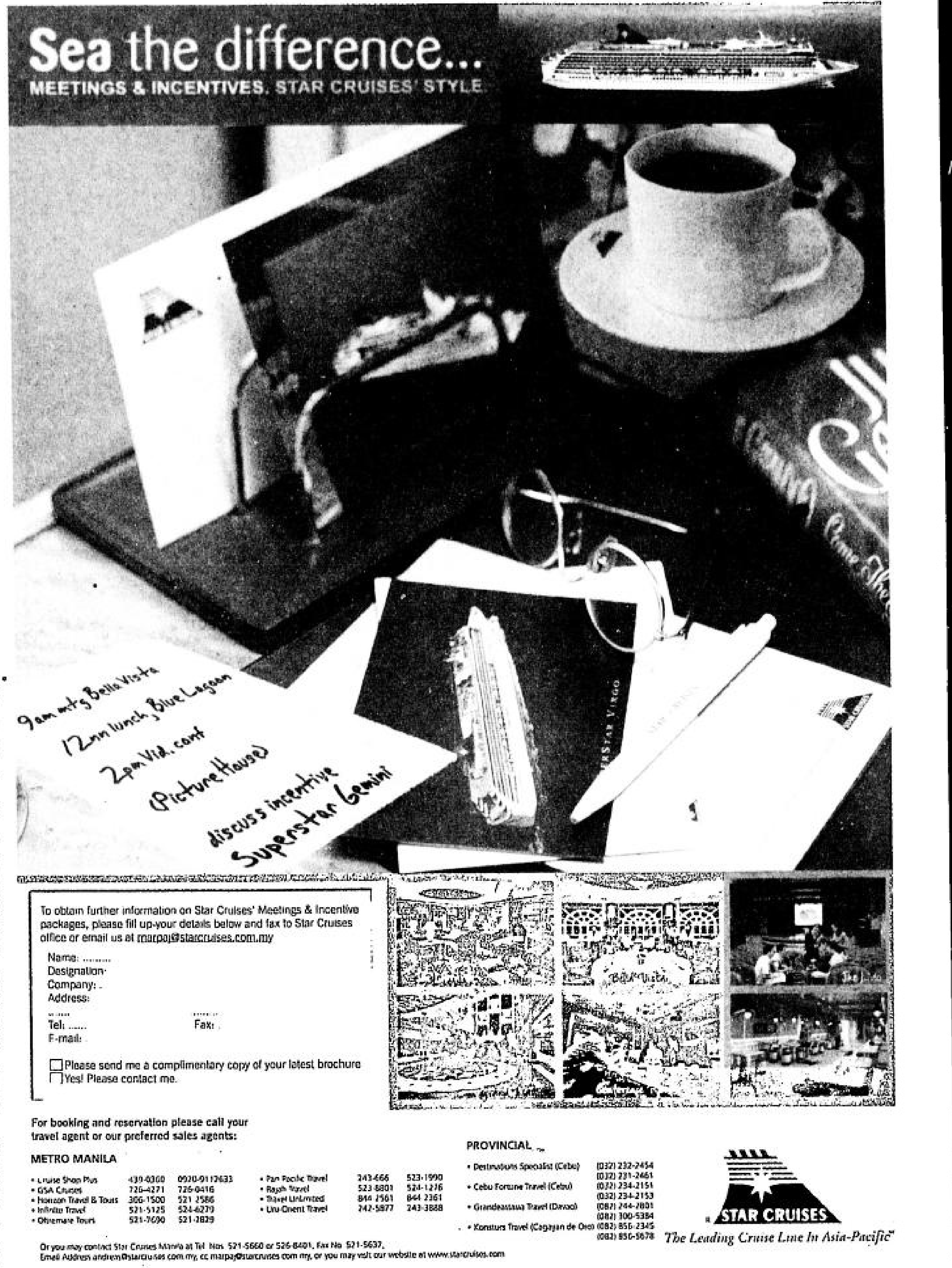
AMPARO V. Barcelon, Emeterio L. Barcelon, S.J., Johnson U. Co, Homer U. Cokeng Jr., Francisco Y. Cokeng Jr., Robert Y. Cokeng, Manuel N. Dy, Johnson Tan Gui Yee and Rufino B. Tiangco have been elected directors of **F&J Prince Holdings Corp.** on July 12. Francis L. Chua and Robert Y. Ynson, on the other hand, were named independent directors.

* * *

DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 8, 2 p.m. at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 8 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ROY Joseph M. Rafols has tendered his resignation as director of the PSEI effective July 12. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***



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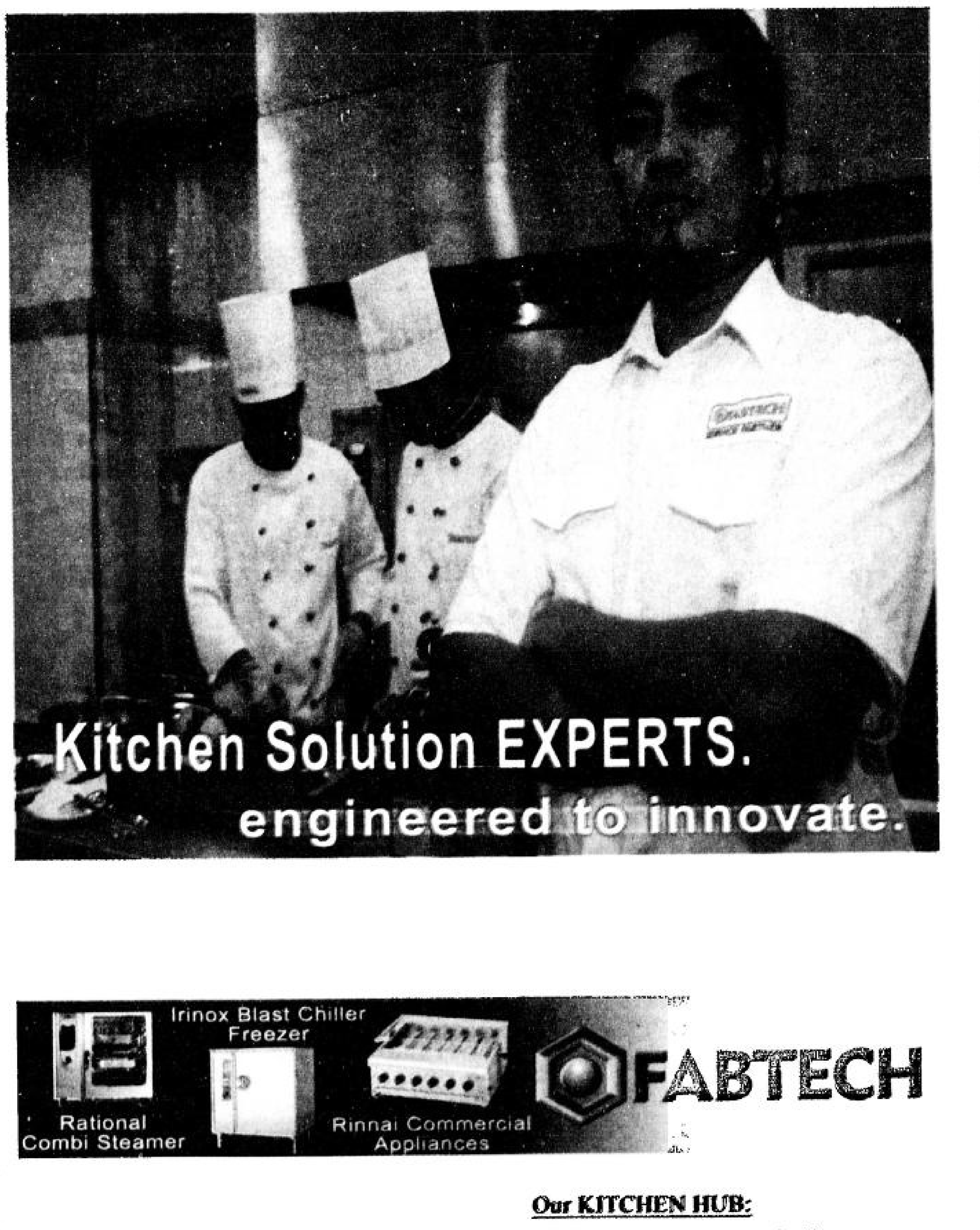
Or you may contact Star Cruises Manila at Tel. Nos. 521-5660 or 526-8401, Fax No. 521-5637.
Email Address andrew@starcruises.com.my, cc marpaj@starcruises.com.my, or you may visit our website at www.starcruises.com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Participant at
FRANCHISE 2006
July 14-16, 2006
World Trade Center, Pasay City

COL RICARDO G NOLASCO SR PAF (RET)

A loving and dedicated father and a war-hero
peacefully joined our Creator
on Wednesday, 12 July 2006, at the age of 90.

His wife: **Josie**; children: **Col Rodolfo Nolasco PAF (Ret)** and **Edna**; **Col Ricardo Nolasco Jr PAF (Ret)**; **Lt Col Roelito Nolasco PAF** and **Zeny**; **Maj Roger Nolasco PAF** (†) and **Ester**; and **Gina**; grandchildren: **Phillip** and **Rochelle**, **Noel**, **Joshua**, **Hannah**, **Ryan**, **Rose Ann**, **Raymond** and **Cheryl**, **Randy**; great grandchildren: **Adam Kalel** and **Kyle Colin**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at **Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.**

Mass to be celebrated daily at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on **Sunday, 16 July 2006**, at the **Manila Memorial Park, Garden of the Angels, Parañaque City** immediately after the **9:30 a.m. Mass.**

Vicenta I. Ramos

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 12, 2006 at the age of 68.

Wife of the late

Enrique D. Ramos, Sr.

Her children: ***Guy (†) Enrique Jr.***, ***Michael*** and ***Sofia***; Daughters-In-Law: ***Mae*** and ***Betsy***; Grandchildren: ***Billy***, ***Erik***, ***Tony*** and ***Tam***; Relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel at Camus'St., Davao City.

Interment will be tomorrow, July 15, 2006 at the San Pedro Memorial Park after the 1 p.m. Mass at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church.

JOSE RUBIO SANCHEZ

of Pandan and Caramoran, Catanduanes

(March 16, 1925 – July 12, 2006)
Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 12, 2006 at the age of 81.

He is survived by his wife **Lolita S. Sanchez**; children **Eliza**, **Tony**, **Sonia**, **Bella**, **Hector**, **Cynthia**, **Claire** and **Osita**; brother **Pedro**, sisters **Azucena**, **Deogina** and **Lilliosa**; in-laws; grandchildren, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

The Sanchez family, request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday,
July 16, 2006 at
the Manila Memorial Park,
Parañaque City after
the 1:30 P.M. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, her beloved husband, Jao Bio Chiong (†),
children, Sancho & Isabel, Eufronio (Efren) & Mary,
Renato (Rene) & Maxima, Adalia & Victor Uy (†),
Dionisio (Jun) & Rosario, Helen (†) & Henry Tan,
Liberato (Levi) & Ana Maria;
grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late

TAN SIU GIN

(NENA TAN JAO)

of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque & Manila

who peacefully joined her Creator on June 29, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of you, our relatives, friends & colleagues, who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, mass cards, messages of sympathy, donations in cash and in kind, spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of great sorrow.

Veronica Millan Ibarle

"Boning"

(June 6, 1922 - July 13, 2006)

Peacefully joined her Creator
at the age of 84.

Her husband **Andres** (†), children **Joey** and **Grace**, **Sol** and **Lulu**, **Lani**, **Noel** and **Yoly**, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel of St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

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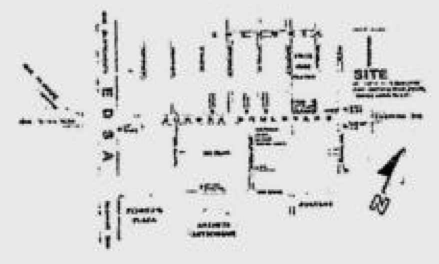

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> *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
>
> **John 14:6**

People, Events & Products

CFBCI's SME Week

THE CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESS CLUB INC (CFBCI) will inaugurate the first-ever Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Center on July 17, a.m. as one of the highlights of the annual celebration of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SME) Week. Initiated by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the event will be celebrated on July 17 – 22. In line with the celebrations, CFBCI will hold a series of seminars and trainings. Apart from these training seminars, the event aims to match SMEs with qualified job seekers. CFBCI SME Center will be co-sponsoring the Job and Livelihood Fair at 3 key cities specifically, Valenzuela, Caloocan and Quezon City on July 12, 18 and 21. Seminars and livelihood training are free but slots are on a first come first served basis. Certificates for attendees of at least 3 modules will be issued. All programs will be conducted at the CFBC Auditorium (8th Floor, Sky Tower, #68 Dasmariñas St. Binondo, Manila). Pre-registration is required. For inquiries and reservations, call the CFBCI Secretariat at 244-4991, 244-4996 and 241-6463 and look for Judith Tan or Jermaine Gallardo, or e-mail to cfbc@cfbc.com.ph.

Chemworld offers free consultation via e-mail

CHEMWORLD FRAGRANCE INSTITUTE IS now offering its customers free consultations via e-mail on how to make fragrance, aromatherapy and other personal care products. Chemworld has a data base of thousands of formulations available for budding entrepreneurs who want to make their own concoctions of colognes, lotions, and aromatherapy oils. Chemworld offers complete supplies at low prices, from ingredients, packaging and label designs, including complete turnkey arrangement from conceptualization to ready-to-market products. Fragrance-making and Aromatherapy seminars are held regularly on Tuesdays (1 - 5 p.m.) and Saturdays (8 - 12 a.m.). The half-day seminar comes with hands-on training to equip participants with the confidence they need when starting a business. A minimal fee of P200 is charged for the ingredients and packaging used during the hands-on. Participants get to bring home the colognes that they blend. The training is held at the 4th floor of Executive Building Center, Makati Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue(across Petron). To reserve for the seminar or to request for product list, interested parties can email chemwrld@info.com.ph, or call tel. 895-4410 or 0917-873-6547(48).

Godiva 40% off promo

THERE IS A HUGE 40 PERCENT DISCOUNT waiting for you at Godiva Skin Station this month of July. From its original price of P5,000 per session, you can now enjoy the benefits of Mesolipo at a very modest price of only P3,000. Melt away those flabs and shrink those fat cells through Godiva Skin Station Mesolipo treatment. And take note: Godiva only discount the price, not the quality. Godiva Mesolipo is administered only by trained and experienced doctors who are on duty from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday in Makati Bel-Air branch, and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays in SM Fairview branch. Godiva Skin Station's 40 percent promo discount on Mesolipo is good until July 31 only. For inquiries, call or text 751-6140/0917-9649828 (Makati Bel-Air branch), 939-1105/0906-4765304 (SM Fairview branch), or e-mail at skinstation@i-godiva.com.

MCS Silver Jubilee

CALLING ALL BATCH '82 GRADUATES OF Malate Catholic School. You are the silver jubilarians for the grand alumni homecoming in February 2007. Preparations for the 2007 Silver Jubilee celebration are under way. For particulars, get in touch with Richie Loberiza at 884-1234 /0917-7918815 OR Jiji Alinas-Antonio at 820-6891/ 0917- 7916709.

The Ridge wins CMMA

THE RIDGE, THE OFFICIAL STUDENTS' PUBlication of Paref Southridge School, has been elevated to the Hall of Fame for winning for four consecutive years as the "Best Campus Paper" in the country. The awarding was held in a fitting ceremony at the RCBC Tower in Makati City. Past issue entitled "Giving back to the Alma Mater" was the one that grabbed the top prize this time. The Ridge was also a finalist in the Best Print Ad category. The winner was announced in the same event. The Junior Ridge, the school's official student publication in Grade School, was also invited to the affair, being one of the finalists this year. This award cements Ridge's standing as the best high school paper in the country today. Paref Southridge school is an exclusive, private school for boys whose spiritual direction is under the guidance of Opus Dei, a Prelature of the Catholic Church. Information may be obtained from the school's website www.southridge.edu.ph.

SMC Alumni Homecoming

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, QUEZON CITY WILL hold its Alumni Homecoming on July 22. Elementary, High School and College graduates are invited to come and participate in an afternoon of fun and celebration. A thanksgiving mass will be sponsored by this year's jubilarians and host, high school batch '81 at 1 p.m. at the Anunciation Hall. Registration follows at the Auditorium where a special program to be participated in by different batches will be held. The celebration continues with raffle draw, merienda and more fun-filled activities at the gym. For inquiries, you may call Vangee Andrada-Palileo at 921-2121 loc. 103/ Diana Tugas-Chu at 922-2536 or Estrella Esmeralda-Lunar at 682-0435.

UAP directory update

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF UNITED ARchitects of the Philippines-Maynilad Chapter, please contact Architect Wilkie Delumen at 523- 1039 or 0917-8981058 for directory update and upcoming projects.

Printing seminars set

THE PHILIPPINE PRINTING TECHNICAL Foundation Inc (PPTF), the printing industry's foremost advocate of excellence in the graphic arts, announced 6 substantive seminars for July to October 2006: Printing Production Management (July 26 - Aug. 4); Manager's Course for Printers (Aug. 9 - 25); Print finishing and Bindery Operations (Aug. 28 - Sept. 1); Production Planning and Control in the Printshop (Sept. 6 - 15); Orientation to the Graphic Arts (Sept. 18 - 23); Print Cost Estimating (Sept. 27 - Oct. 6). For more details and reservations, call the PPTF Secretariat at 713-0902 and 713-2671.

Segafredo's diners' treat

SETTING THE BEAT FOR QUALITY COFFEE and fine dining service, Segafredo Zanetti Espresso Bar now offers a special diners' treat for July with a P250 worth of free food order of any choice for every P550 worth of single receipt purchase. Claim this delightful offer when you present your claim coupon on your next visit and order any of Segafredo menu's beverage delights. Avail this complimentary offer as you savor the coolest and latest deals that Segafredo offers. For inquiries, call Segafredo Zanetti Espresso Bar at Greenbelt 2 at 7574058 and at the Podium at 633-3421.

Manila Water's TPSB lauded at CSR Expo

MANILA WATER'S FLAGSHIP COMMUNITY development program, Tubig Para Sa Barangay (TPSB) or Water for the Community, was cited as a model strategy of successfully integrating social responsibility into sustainable mainstream business operations. Speaking before delegates and participants of the 4th Annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Expo 2006 at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president and chief operating officer of the Ayala Corporation, stressed the need to align business models that will positively affect the lives of the more marginalized sectors of the society. He specifically lauded the TPSB program of Manila Water for providing potable and affordable water to more than 850,000 people from the low-income communities in the East Zone of Metro Manila since the state-owned Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) was privatized in 1997. "The TPSB program is a strategic priority and solution that provided a vital service to the poor. Not only did it create livelihoods and improve the lives of the poor but it also accounted for one-third of the company's billed volume, a shining example of perfect alignment of the company's social mission with its business goals" Zobel added. In his call to action for other companies to integrate CSR activities into their core business, Ayala further opined that doing business at the bottom of the pyramid (BOP) is a sound strategy that is very fulfilling as it tangibly affects the lives of majority of our people.

Bits Clips

Photoline dishes out discount coupons

PHOTOLINE, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADing providers of quality photo services, offers its customers greater deals as it approaches its 25th anniversary. Discount coupons, classified into five kinds, are now in the market. The said coupons vary in value — ranging from P5, P10, and P25 — and could be used when purchasing goods or availing the services of Photoline. For customers to enjoy discounts, the special coupons must be presented to the cashier before any transaction takes place. Customers who get hold of the coupons are entitled to price cuts when buying camera bags, picture frames, and photo albums. They are also guaranteed of discounts in analog, digital and/or cellphone picture printing and the Photoline Studio Packages. The discount coupons are valid from June 1 to Sept. 30.

Amazing Golf Experience at Evercrest Golf Club

EVERCREST GOLF CLUB RESORT, THE premiere golf club in Nasugbu, Batangas offers an Amazing Golf Experience Package for only P3,200 starting June 1 to Aug. 30. Here you can enjoy the cozy deluxe accommodation with a view seeing all that is vast and beautiful while enjoying a round of golf, an 18-hole, par 72 course designed by the legendary Arnold Palmer. After an exciting game, you can relax at El Patio Restaurant while enjoying a delectable meal and comfort of the place. For reservations and inquiries, contact Evercrest Golf Club Resort at 733-9593, 733-3822, 733-9955 or 712-9293.

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Renato Agustin	Unknown	Leonida Agustin SS#01-1068728-7	April 13, 2006
2)	Barbara Alcantara	670 Bo. San Jose, Mandaluyong	Federico Alcantara SS#03-2029417-2	April 27, 2006
3)	Teresita Bellono	Mabini St., Talisay City, Neg. Occ.	Fernando Bellono SS#07-0520779-7	Feb. 23, 2006
4)	Crita A. Belua	Tacloban, Leyte	Verano Betua SS#06-0353844-5	May 21, 2006
5)	Angelita G. Bontog	Unknown	Ruben S. Bontog SS#03-3311263-6	Dec. 3, 2003
6)	John Albert M. Cunanan III	Valenzuela City	Albert Cunanan SS#03-3423093-1	July 1, 2005
7)	Mario Dela Fuente Jr.	101 Mons St., San Juan, M.M.	Aleta Dela Fuente SS#03-2609291-2	Dec. 8, 2003
8)	Maria Rodriguez	Casay, Argao, Cebu	Segundino P. Dilan SS#06-0944199-2	Feb. 14, 2006
9)	Rodrigo Enesin Shiela Enesin	Unknown	Miguel Enesin SS#03-4849434-9	Jan. 20, 2006
10)	Soccoro Dela Cruz Benjie Alfaro	Corrigedor St. Gen. Trias, Cavite	Alfaro Guillermo SS#33-3179855-4	Sept. 25, 2003
11)	Rolando Hofilena	Unknown	Rosalie C. Hofilena SS#33-7368314-8	October 11, 2005
12)	Jocelyn Besa Laureano	Unknown	Antonina Laureno SS#07-0457624-1	March 13, 2005
13)	Consuelo Laysico -Lucenada Sherill Lucenada	G. Tuason, Sampaloc, Mla.	Ruben B. Lucenada SS#03-0465022-4	October 12, 2002
14)	Judith F. Manaba	Suba, Basbas, Lapu Lapu City	Sonny Manaba SS#06-0168744-0	April 20, 2006
15)	Editha Delgado Molino	Bolitoc, Sta. Cruz, Zambales	Pedro M. Molino SS#02-0218958-3	June 15, 2004
16)	Lolita S. Montemayor	Unknown	Melecio C. Montemayor, Jr. SS#03-0831940-6	June 21, 2004
17)	Tita Natividad	Brgy. Tunasan, Muntinlupa, M. Mla.	Adriano Natividad SS#03-2162198-0	Nov. 2, 1986
18)	Andresita Orosio	Unknown	Macario Orosio SS#07-0392694-4	May 6, 2004
19)	Leonora Riobaldo & Children	Talampas, Bustos, Bulacan	Maximiano O. Panes SS#03-2515933-5	Dec. 20, 2003
20)	Susan Pernes, Sherlyn, Sharmane, Senith & Sherwin	Brgy. Anamian, Labo, Camarines Norte	Sonny Valentin Pernes SS#03-5126609-8	August 16, 2001
21)	Anatolia Florendo	Unknown	Jose D. Pili SS#03-0788973-3	May 23, 2006
22)	Joyce Vista Merlin Querubin Teresa Quintana	Unknown	Eusebio D. Quintana SS#03-2617768-8	October 19, 2005
23)	Rafael Remo	Unknown	Conchita Remo SS#07-1706949-9	October 22, 2004
24)	Luzviminda Beri	Unknown	Randy B. Sacdal SS#33-4803237-1	April 26, 2006
25)	Frederick Tecson	Malabon City	Valeriano P. Tecson SS#03-5801672-0	Nov. 15, 2005
26)	Melvin Thomas	Unknown	Delia Thomas SS#03-9271574-4	Sept. 26, 2005
27)	Marilyn E. Velasquez	Bancal, Meycauayan, Bulacan	Antonio S. Velasquez SS#03-3950546-7	Feb. 2, 2006
28)	Violeta Feliciano	Unknown	Alfonso T. Veloso SS#33-0849731-2	August 3, 2005
29)	Ana Vinlunan	Unknown	Jose Verania SS#03-0707959-8	Sept. 4, 2003
30)	Liu Si	Unknown	Wong San SS#03-0137595-5	October 16, 1998

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI – July 15. 2006)

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Call for Submission of Textbooks and Teacher's Manual

The Department of Education is inviting interested publishers to submit copies of camera-readcy materials of their textbooks (TXs) and accompanying teacher's manuals (TMs) for Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH) for First to Fourth Year high school intended for use in public high schools under the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP).

This call does not constitute a pre-bid content evaluation. SEDIP intends to buy the best sets of materials that pass content evaluation with a reasonable price-offer for the royalty fee or copyright authorization fee to print and distribute to all its recipient schools nationwide.

All submitted materials will undergo an evaluation process in four levels:

- Level 1 to test completeness of coverage, organization, and internal consistency;
- Level 2 to check accuracy of facts and information, integrity of concepts, and sequence of learning concepts;
- Level 3 to test the appropriateness of the language and visuals used; and
- Level 4 to ensure correct grammar and syntax

The ratings in the four (4) levels of content evaluation will be added and the three (3) titles with the highest aggregate rating will be considered for ranking. The ranks 1 to 3 titles will be recommended for negotiation for the royalty fee or copyright authorization fee that would allow SEDIP to print and distribute to all its recipient schools nationwide. Negotiation shall also ensure in case there is only one title that qualifies.

Publishers will pay an evaluation fee of forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) each set of textbook and teacher's manual. The evaluation fees, which will be used to defray expenses for service fees, transportation, and board and lodging of evaluators, may be paid either in cash or manager's check addressed to DepED-IMCS Acct. No. LBP 0672-1027-66. Payments must be made at the DepED Cash Division, 1st Floor, Rizal Building II, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

The MAPEH TXs and TMs should be submitted to the DepED-Procurement Service (PS) at 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City starting July 31, 2006 but not later than August 4, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In order to get a soft copy of the Learning Competencies and the Textbook Call Guidelines, bring a blank compact disk to the DepED-IMCS starting July 10, 2006. For more information, please contact Ms. Daisy O. Santos or Ms. Nonie Barraquias at 634-1054 or 631-9294.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) Atty. **CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI--July 8 & 15, 2006)

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City
Tel. No. (055) 2098-211

INVITATION TO BID

July 7, 2006

The SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

1. Supply of labor for the construction of its expansion projects.
2. Supply and delivery of the various electrical hardwares and equipment for line construction, operation and maintenance.
3. Supply and delivery steel poles, anchor logs (wood) and crossarms

Interested eligible bidders may obtain furhter information and bidding documents upon payment of non-refundabe amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) in the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday).

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested bidders who are not yet accredited must submit the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

1. **Company Profile**
2. **List of Clients served**

For purposes of clarification and details of the items due for bidding a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2006 accompanied by bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or bidder's representative at the address above at 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2006.

The Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 13, 14 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. 8
Pawing Palo, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

REPAIR/RENOVATION OF NFA STAFFHOUSE AT PAWING PALO, LEYTE

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites contractors classified by and registered with valid Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) with IAC (Inter Agency Committee) Registration - Small B for GB-1 (Building or Industrial Plant) to participate and to bid for the project specified below

PARTICULAR	LOCATION	BUDGET
Repair/Renovation of NFA Staffhouse	Pawing Palo, Leyte	P1,995,229.86

Schedule of Pre-bidding & Bidding:	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Contractor's Eligbility form	July 17-21, 2006	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2. Deadline for submission of Accomplished Contractor's Eligbility forms & requirements	July 28, 2006	5:00 PM
3. Issuance of Bid Documents & Plans	- July 26 - Aug. 1, 2006	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
4. Pre-bidding conference	- August 03, 2006	9:00 AM
5 Submission & Opening of bids	- August 15, 2006	9:00 AM

Venue for the Pre-bidding conference, submission and opening of bids shall be at the NFA Regional Conference Room, Regional Office VIII Pawing Palo, Leyte.

Eligbility forms may be secured and submitted at the NFA RBAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable application fee of *P500.00*.

Bidding documents, technical specification and plans shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *P4,000.00*.

All particulars relative to eligibility requirements, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and other applicable rules and regulations.

NFA reserves the right to accept or to reject any bids thereof, waive any informalities found therein or to accept such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or the government.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
Assistant Regional Manager II
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 15 & 21, 2006)

Standard Form Number SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 204

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTACT DURATION
1. DRUGS & MEDICINES	Provincial Capitol Bldg., City of San Fernando, La Union	Purchases of Drugs & Medicines, Medical/Surgical, Laboratory, Dental, X-Ray Supplies	7,027,844.29	180CD
2. MEDICAL/SURGICAL			3,971,608.27	180CD
3. LABORATORY SUPPLIES			1,475,244.00	180CD
4. DENTAL SUPPLIES			49,050.00	180CD
5. X-RAY SUPPLIES			507,060.00	180CD

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities		*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents		July 12, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference		July 17, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
3. Opening of Bids	a. Drugs & Medicines	July 26, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	b. Medical/Surgical Supplies	July 27, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	c. Laboratory Supplies	July 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	d. Dental Supplies	July 28, 2006, 1:00 P.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
	e. X-Ray Supplies	July 28, 2006, 1:00 P.M., Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
4. Bid Evaluation		July 31-Aug. 14, 2006
5. Post-Qualification		July 31-Aug. 14, 2006
6. Notice of Award		July 31-Aug. 14, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Drugs and Medicines = P2,500.00; Medical/Surgical Supplies = P1,500.00; Laboratory Supplies = P1,000.00; Dental Supplies = P500.00 and X-Ray Supplies = P500.00** to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI-July 09 & 15, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be notified that on June 21, 2006, VAT Official Receipts series No. 677501-6777525 of Filinvest Land, Inc., 173 P. Gomez St., San Juan, Metro Manila, were lost and despite diligent efforts, could not be found, and now forever beyond recovery. Whoever uses these lost receipts has no authority or permission from FLI.

The Management,
Filinvest Land, Inc.

(PDI – July 15, 2006)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of Republic Act 9048, a Notice is hereby served to the public that **PAULETTE L. GOLEZ** has filed with this Office a Petition For Change of First Name from **PAULITA** to **PAULETTE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **PAULITA DIAZ LLORICO** bearing Registry No. 2219 (k-70) who was born on NOVEMBER 21, 1970 at SAMPALOC MANILA, PHILS. and whose parents are VICENTE ALBAÑA LLORICO and AMPARO DACUTAN DIAZ.

Any person adversely affected by the said petition may file his/her written opposition at this office not later than ________

(Sgd.) TERESITA U. JACOMILLE
CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

(PDI – July 8 & 15, 2006)

ERRATUM

In the **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC** ad re change of name of Paulette L. Golez, printed in this paper last July 8, 2006, the Republic Act No. should be **9048** instead of 9046, and the father's name should have read **Vicente Albaña Llorico** and not as printed.

Our apologies.

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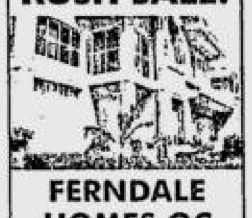

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ALFREDO G. DELOS REYES

This is to inform the public that the above person is no longer connected with **SUPERSHIP MARINE SERVICES, INC.** as of March 5, 2006 due to non-renewal of his employment contract.

(PDI - July 15, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **Maria Rowena Austria** a.k.a. **Alram Wheng** whose picture appears above, is not and has never been connected nor employed with **Wella Philippines, Inc.**

Any transaction or dealing entered into by the said Ms. Austria, for and in behalf of **Wella Philippines, Inc.** will not be recognized by the company.

Sunico, Malabanan & Associates Law Offices
Counsel for **Wella Philippines, Inc.**
2nd Floor, ODC International Plaza Condominium
219 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 840-2511 up to 15
E-mail: sumalaw@info.com.ph

(PDI–July 15, 2006)

The DNA of excellence special seminar Set

SUCCESS IS NOT AN ACCIDENT. THERE ARE specific reasons why the top performers win. Plug into your ultimate power! Activate the inner resource of your people and create breakthroughs and explosive results. Don't miss the groundbreaking event dubbed as The DNA of Excellence slated on July 28 at Holiday Inn Galleria. Distinguished speakers include James Valentine, international speaker and author; his books have been published in 12 countries; Juliet Torcelino Van Ruyven, International Motivator; Jesse Rebustillo, head of Classified Ads Division of Philippine Daily Inquirer; Joey Reyes, founder and president of PowerSpeak; and Rene Espinosa, managing director of Porter & Miles, Inc.

The topics include The Challenge of Excellence; Dream Big Dreams; Vision – The Power to See; Conceiving, Believing and Achieving, The Magic of Positive Thinking; The Ultimate Personal Empowerment; Responsibility and Commitment; Action Plans; S-Y-S-T-E-M; Action TNT; Power Questions; Taking Action; etc.

This major event is organized by Porter and Miles Inc. a premier training company on sales, marketing, business, management, and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. You may call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / registration. An overnight stay for two at Holiday Inn Galleria Gift Certificate will be raffled off during the event plus other great prizes.

Perk up productivity, sales and profits. Sponsors for this must-attend seminar include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Job Market, Citibank, Businessweek, Holiday Inn, Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines; Lexber, Inc., UKDerm Pharma, Dinsmor Magnets and New Synergy Garments.

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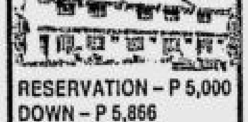

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Firewalls, opportunity for creativity

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

CITY LIVING THESE DAYS IS LIKE living in a concrete jungle. Lot cuts are smaller. People try to maximize its usage by building up to the limits of standard building codes and local ordinances.

In some areas, houses stand cheek by jowl with small business establishments, townhouses or (heaven forbid!) high-rise condominiums. In cases like these, builders resort to constructing firewalls mainly to lower the risk of fires spreading rapidly between buildings and, secondary, to create a visual separation and muffle noises and fumes from the neighboring structure.

Firewalls, those flat concrete fences that rise as high as the homeowner dares, are a double-edged blade that can give a semblance of privacy and security while simultaneously increasing the density of our concrete jungle.

'See-through' fences

MMDA's Bayani Fernando is promoting "see-through" fences to reduce the tempting effect of walls on vandals and graffiti artists and to showcase the greenery that lies beyond them. It is a perfectly good concept and I hope he succeeds in getting the cooperation of property owners.

Visualize the golf course of Camp Aguinaldo if it were visible from Edsa, like the one in Intramuros, or the manicured expanse of Wackwack if it could be seen from Ortigas. The feast for tired motorists' eyes could alleviate a lot of road rage, don't you think?

Sadly, however, we are stuck with these blank walls and must learn to live with them. The reality of these barriers in city areas is quite literally set "in concrete." However, that doesn't mean we can't improve what we already have. There are good sides to these opaque blockades and, with just a little imagination, the good side could lie on your side.

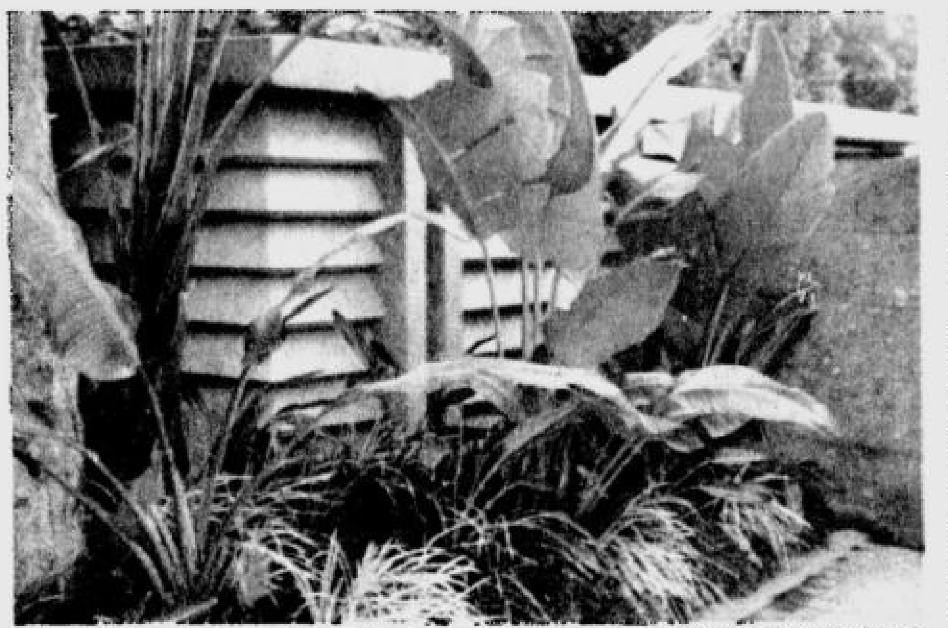
Security, privacy

Fences are mainly built for security. Ironically, studies show that homes with high walls are burglarized more often than those visible from the street. The conservative opinion is that a solid wall prevents criminals from "casing the joint" or observing how to cart away your valuables. Others believe that walls lessen witnesses to a crime and can even prevent homeowners themselves from seeing who or where their unwanted "visitor" is. I think, having walls (or not) and its being a deterrent to crime (or not) depend entirely on the owner's psyche.

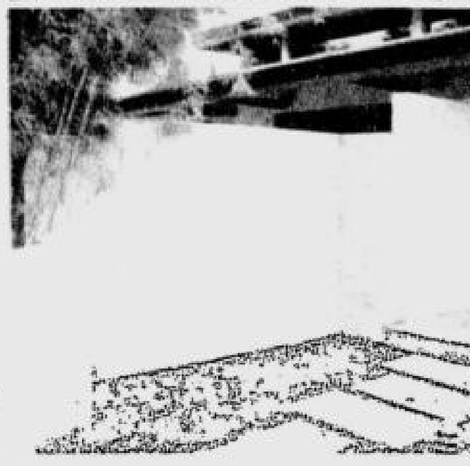
Privacy is another key reason for the construction of these towering borders, especially when you have a swimming pool or a nice garden that you love to lounge around. A simple alternative to a wall is to plant hedges, which are more visually appealing and environment-friendly. In addition, it can shield you more pleasantly from the scorching sun. Your landscaper will know which plants are best for your requirements.

Fire is the main concern for the proliferation of these gigantic walls, which is the reason they are called firewalls. The logical rulings regarding their construction are enshrined in the building and fire codes. Particularly for communities with a mix of establishments, this invention is a godsend and must be recommended. However, firewalls are likewise found between neighboring homes and can be quite a boring sight.

Now what if you live next to these looming walls? Are you the claustrophobic type? Are these boundaries blocking your view? Not getting any wind? Do you find the bulkiness unsightly, unnecessary? You can make it work to your advantage, despite the limitations, legal aspects, and ownership.



PERIMETER walls do not always need to be solid; here the front fence was treated with louvered panels to allow ventilation and visibility for the residence from the inside.



PEDESTRIAN gate was moved to the eave line of the house for protection from rain and to also create an entrance court.

Suggestions

Here are some frequent questions I've received about firewalls, along with my suggestions:

Can I build on top of my neighbor's existing wall? If it is a shared wall, yes. If not, ask your neighbor's permission. Build only if he agrees to the idea and if the original wall is structurally sound.

Can I drive a nail on the side of my neighbor's wall facing my property? No, but you can build something adjacent to it on which you can nail to your heart's content.

It is surprising to some that the answers to these questions pertaining to property walls and its ownership are found not in the National Building Code but in the Civil Code of the Philippines. (It is an enlightening read, especially if you have problems about your neighbors in terms of privacy, noise, nuisance, etc.)

Opportunities

Now for the opportunities found in firewalls:

If there is no view, create one. There are very innovative architects and landscape architects who can create wallscapes, complete with water features and stylized accents that are soothing to the senses—appealing to the sight, relaxing to the ears, cool and even aromatic.

A simple mosaic tile design on the wall adds color and style to something originally dull. With the proper landscaping and addition of potted flowers, bird cages, or planting strips, you can achieve the pleasing courtyard effect that many developers are now promoting. To lessen the massive impact and feeling of coldness, it can be planted with ivy, or covered with natural stones, bricks, bamboo, *bakawan*, or reeds. It can serve as a showcase of your collection of artifacts and souvenirs from travels around the world. At night, with the proper lighting, you could get a dramatic effect.

It is also a good place to express and display art, using the wall as a huge canvas. My kids use it as a chalkboard for colorful murals and funny cartoons that can easily be washed out as often as their creativity desires.

If you enjoy outdoor dining, a bare wall is always a good place to position a barbecue pit. Just make sure it is high enough to cover most of the smoke and smell of your roast.

Sometimes, we use it as a projection screen to show family videos during outdoor parties. Or, you can project televised games and concerts for a big group to enjoy.

Firewalls beside large buildings are lucrative opportunities for advertisers, particularly so if it is situated in a high-traffic area. Within the plant or factory perimeter, the blank wall can be painted over with slogans and company news.

Firewalls can be both a bane and a boon, depending on how one wants to view it. With the right creative touch, this ubiquitous monument of city living can transform into a wall of pride.

A taste of Carribean life at Palm Grove Condos

PALM trees and pockets of garden surround Palm Grove Condominiums.

AT PALM GROVE CONDOMINIUMS IN Better Living, Parañaque City, homeowners find a semblance of the Carribean summer holiday all year round.

The real thing—a paradise by the sea where the rich, the famous and the beautiful cruise, party and need to be seen—may be oceans away but at this exclusive community developed by DMCI Homes only minutes away from Manila, one can soak up a bit of the Carribean life anytime. At Palm Grove, a resident might as well feel like he/she were summering in her dream-of-a-lifetime tourist getaway as she sips a tall glass of piña colada by the pool while her senses feast on thick clusters of palm trees and lush garden sprawls all around her. If she needs further pampering, the housing enclave has a rich roster of other luxurious, resort-type facilities and amenities at her disposal.

Vacation feeling

Each unit at Palm Grove allows a resident to be most at ease with city dwelling, one compelling reason Palm Grove's Phase 1 has been sold out immediately after its turnover and why the development's second phase is doing fast business. The condo units have been laid out in such a way that they are open to a wide range of design and decorative styles their occupants may so personally desire.

Understanding that coming home to a relaxed and comfortable environment is what everyone yearns for, DMCI Homes' in-house interior designer Haidee Santos explains why she has transplanted the Carribean ambiance inside the development. "Palm Grove is very vibrant and sunny in the sense that there are a lot of gardens and flowers around which easily translate to a sense of lightness and a feeling of vacation to many of our residents," she says. "We intend to convey that vacation feeling by showing our residents that they can actually bring the outdoors inside their homes."

Palms here and there

Santos says plants make for great design accents because they are very relaxing to the eye. "A good choice for indoor plants are palms for the simple reason that they are easy to maintain," she advises. The King Sago palm, the bamboo palm and the Neanthe Bella palm are the more popular types and they are very easy to find.

The bamboo palm, for instance, can be placed in the living area to add warmth and color to the space. "Palms are any working owner's friend because it's very decorative yet does not require much care and attention. They easily blend with any furniture or accent piece. Regardless of the color theme of your interior, using indoor plants will never be a worry because they stand on their own and won't really be a distraction." Available in the market in various many types and many sizes, a homeowner will find palms a perfectly fitting accessory in his abode.

Ideally situated in one of the fast-growing cities south of Manila, Palm Grove Condominiums is within minutes of the country's premier schools, commercial centers and the financial district of Makati.

Credibility in pest management a big investment

HAVING A WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF INSECT biology and elimination continues to prove useful to Nap Camba, who was an entomologist-civilian employee of the US Navy from 1975 to 1992, until the US bases pulled out. His 19-year training as a certified US Department of Defense pest management program manager and entomologist has allowed him to pursue a separate business venture in 1992.

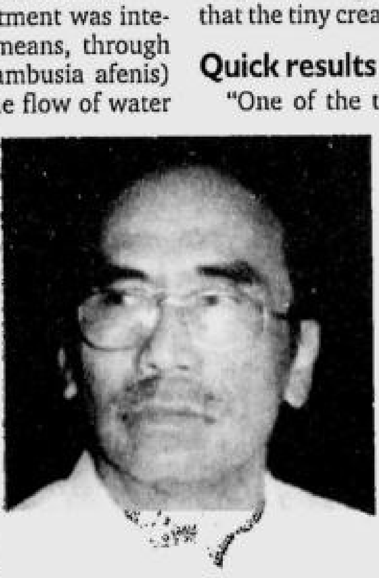
"My position was a vital one, and one of the highest civilian positions in the US Navy," Camba shares. "I was supposed to work for them in another location again in 1993, but by the time they contacted me, I already have many clients, so I continued my pest management business, De Pester's, in Olongapo (telefax (047) 223-2086, or 09175114051). Being your own boss is rewarding."

Considerable experience

Camba has had considerable experience with an assortment of residential and business structure pests, whether with projects he's gotten through the Navy, or De Pester's. One of his bigger credentials is his active participation in eliminating malaria vectoring mosquitoes.

Says Camba: "I was selected to be the contractor to manage the malaria problem at Agusubin area in Subic. I contained the problem in less than six months. When they got me, almost 10 percent of the people in the place were already infected with the disease. Two months after I started my disease vectoring mosquitoes management plan, infection was greatly reduced to only 2 percent, and it was totally contained after a few months."

According to him, the treatment was integrated; we used biological means, through the release of small fish (Gambusia afenis) that eats mosquito larvae. The flow of water was diverted based on my management plan, so that the mosquitoes can't lay eggs. "I also used chemical control, and even wrote a comic book to promote awareness about the disease," he added.



NAP Camba's pest control company De Pester's uses the Sentricon Colony Elimination System.

Favorable reception

This commitment to giving lasting solutions has always been crucial to De Pester's, according to the entomologist, who has been open to using current technology and advancements in pest management. The company has been installing Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System. It has been getting continuous favorable reception from various clients, and Camba is happy that the decision to apply as an authorized operator for Zambales, Bataan and Pampanga has proven to be a wise one.

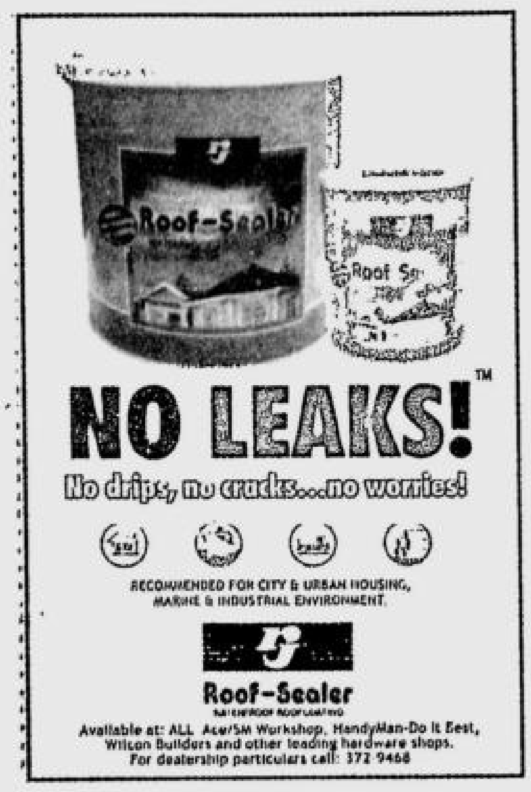
"Some time back, I was informed that Dow AgroSciences through their distributor Alog and Co. was looking for a Sentricon operator. Based on my profile and experience, I was considered for the job. There was extensive training and testing, and De Pester's passed. I have five qualified technicians involved in Sentricon. The progress with clients is really good. At first, I was skeptical, even when I've been introduced to, and briefed about Sentricon because it means changing paradigm of termite treatment. But when we did a trial, it was very successful! I was really encouraged to use it after that."

Some of those that were treated with Sentricon are the Convention Center of Olongapo, the Olongapo Museum, the Diocese Pastoral Center Bishop House and the San Agustin Church of Iba, Zambales, a Japanese firm, and residential properties in SBMA. He adds that he has had encounters with termites for the past 30 years prior to his use of Sentricon, and has gotten used to the destruction that the tiny creatures are capable of.

Quick results

"One of the things about Sentricon's termite colony elimination system that I have observed is that the feeding and the damage immediately stop whenever termites feed on the baits that were installed and our clients also like the fact that it doesn't involve digging, drilling and injection of hazardous chemicals. It's really different. You see the quick results. When I use the traditional method before, the termites sometimes finds a gap and reinfestation occurs. I've had insecurities because of that; I felt embarrassed when customers told me about recurring infestations. Credibility is a big investment. With Sentricon, you have very dramatic results, so the clients are very satisfied."

De Pester's, aside from completing successful assignments in Olongapo, Pampanga, Zambales and Bataan, is already and willing to continue depesting in other venues using new and improved methods to get rid of invasive termites and other bugs. "The first thing that I look for is the satisfaction of the customer," he offers. "Their peace of mind is very important and very rewarding for me. In the traditional method, when the termites attack again, it's hard to conduct business with the clients again because of the dissatisfaction. It's understandable; they should get their money's worth. Sentricon is the best and most rewarding solution, and I feel much better that it's able to help preserve their homes and establishments."



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CrownAsia's masterplanned hometowns in the south

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRY'S biggest builder of homes, invests in viable locations in the fast-developing Southern Luzon for its two full-blast residential communities—Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite and Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna. Both communities belong to the company's ProudHometowns division, a roster of defined communities which homeowners can take pride in for generations to come.

As with each project of CrownAsia, the ProudHometowns are masterplanned for comfortable living while addressing the lifestyle needs of residents. Acquiring a property from CrownAsia's ProudHometowns is an investment which will increase its value in the years ahead due to prime locations with continuous industrial progress, neighboring practical conveniences, systematic road network to ease the travel of heading for work and coming home, and placing leisure amenities within each community.

Essential factor

Choosing prime sites in South Luzon is an essential factor for the fast progress and continuous expansion of the communities to accommodate more and more families who've chosen CrownAsia as their home of choice.

Cabuyao is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Laguna with its growing number industrial parks and commercial establishments in the locale. The first master-planned, Italian-inspired community in Cabuyao, Fortezza has become a thriving residential estate. Greeting each resident is a view of the fabled Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling complemented by unspoiled nature and rustic, tranquil air.

Dubbed as the "Crown of Laguna," Fortezza boasts of Italian-inspired homes with warm Mediterranean hues and designs intended for comfortable living. Completing this themed village are Roman statues and baroque fountains, while Italian lamps line piazzas and charming pocket gardens. Country calm and city convenience—Fortezza brings the best of both worlds with its strategic location just two minutes from the South Luzon Expressway and an easy 45-minute drive from Makati.

Fastest developing area

Cavite is one of the fastest developing areas in the south primary because of its close proximity to the Metro Manila. Imus, the capital municipality of Cavite has witnessed a steady industrial growth and emergence of commercial establishments. Located in Imus, the well-developed 70-hectare hometown of Citta Italia has grown to 11 phases to accommodate more and more families who desire an Italian-inspired home.

Among the many phases are Milano, Venezia, Roma, Messina, Verona, Palladio, Lessinia, Vicenza and Brescia, with Vetta (Italian for "peak") and Brescia as its newest phases. The comfort of cosmopolitan living is combined with the elegance of Italy at Citta Italia.

Both Fortezza and Citta Italia offer the five Crown Jewels, a line of model homes inspired by distinct Italian architecture while boasting of ingenious layout which maximize living space—Jade, Pearl, Sapphire, Emerald and Ruby.

Other enclaves

Other flourishing CrownAsia enclaves belonging to the ProudHometowns division are WoodBerry and Maia Alta in Antipolo City; Amici in Daang Hari, Alabang; Residenza in Bacoor, Cavite; and Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Creating idyllic urban enclaves serves as the primary aspiration of CrownAsia while essential elements for building residential communities are prioritized. Visit any of the hometowns and discover what proudly defines CrownAsia's commitment to fulfill the lifelong dreams of Filipino families.

Flower garden community to rise in Tagaytay City

From page B12

but Tagaytay has many sprawling flower farms. They inspired us to give Bloomfields Tagaytay a similar surroundings. Besides, flower gardens amid residential homes not only improve air quality and create environments hospitable to plant and animal species but also foster the development of a community identity and spirit," Alferez explains.

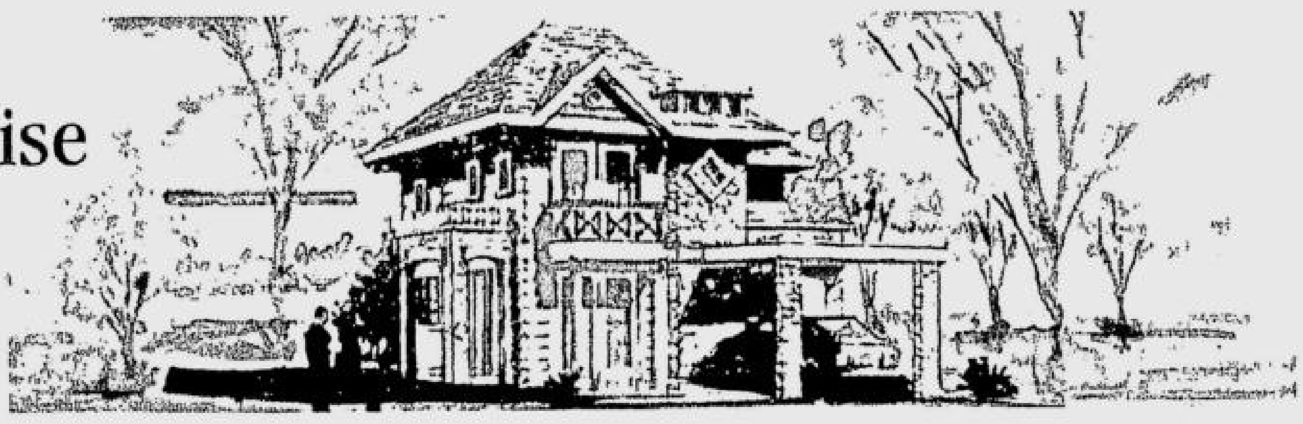
Alferez added that flower garden spaces also allow for interaction with nature and the productive use of land.

Mix-use development

After the 4.4-hectare residential component of Bloomfields Tagaytay is finished, another 2.1 hectare property located in front of the property (facing the highway) will give rise to a mix-use development composed of an outdoor street mall, a mid-rise hotel and covered badminton courts.

But while the plan for this phase is still being finalized, Alferez assures that by end of December 2007, Bloomfields Tagaytay residents will be able to enjoy the development together with the amenities that will be completed including a recreational center, activity center and swimming pool.

Moreover, Alferez says that because of the development's strategic location, Bloomfields Tagaytay residents would not have any problem reaching the city's (and also Taal's) top dining destinations and tourists spots. Moreover, the numerous beaches lining up Batangas and Cavite coasts are just a few hour's drive away," Alferez notes.



HOME designs inspired by American country homes (seen here is the Anthurium model home) will prevail over the whole RHI development in Tagaytay.

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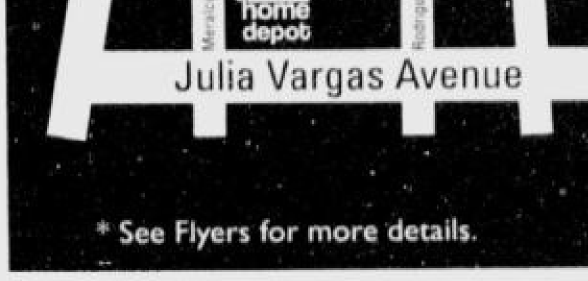

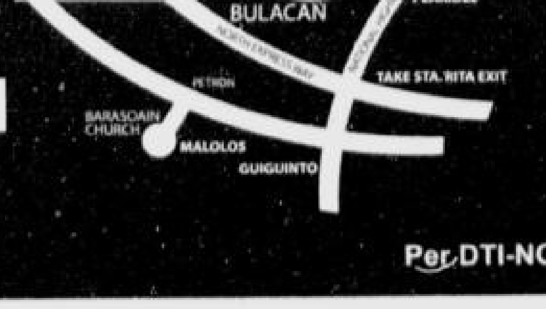

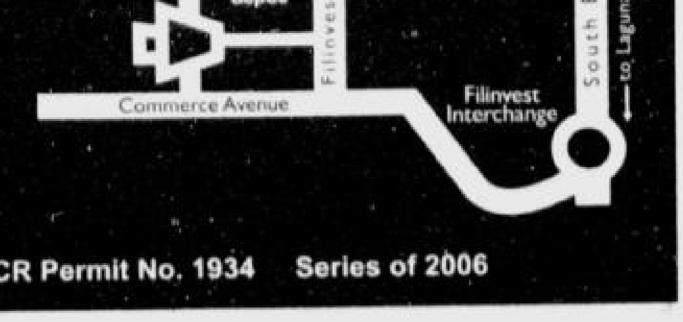

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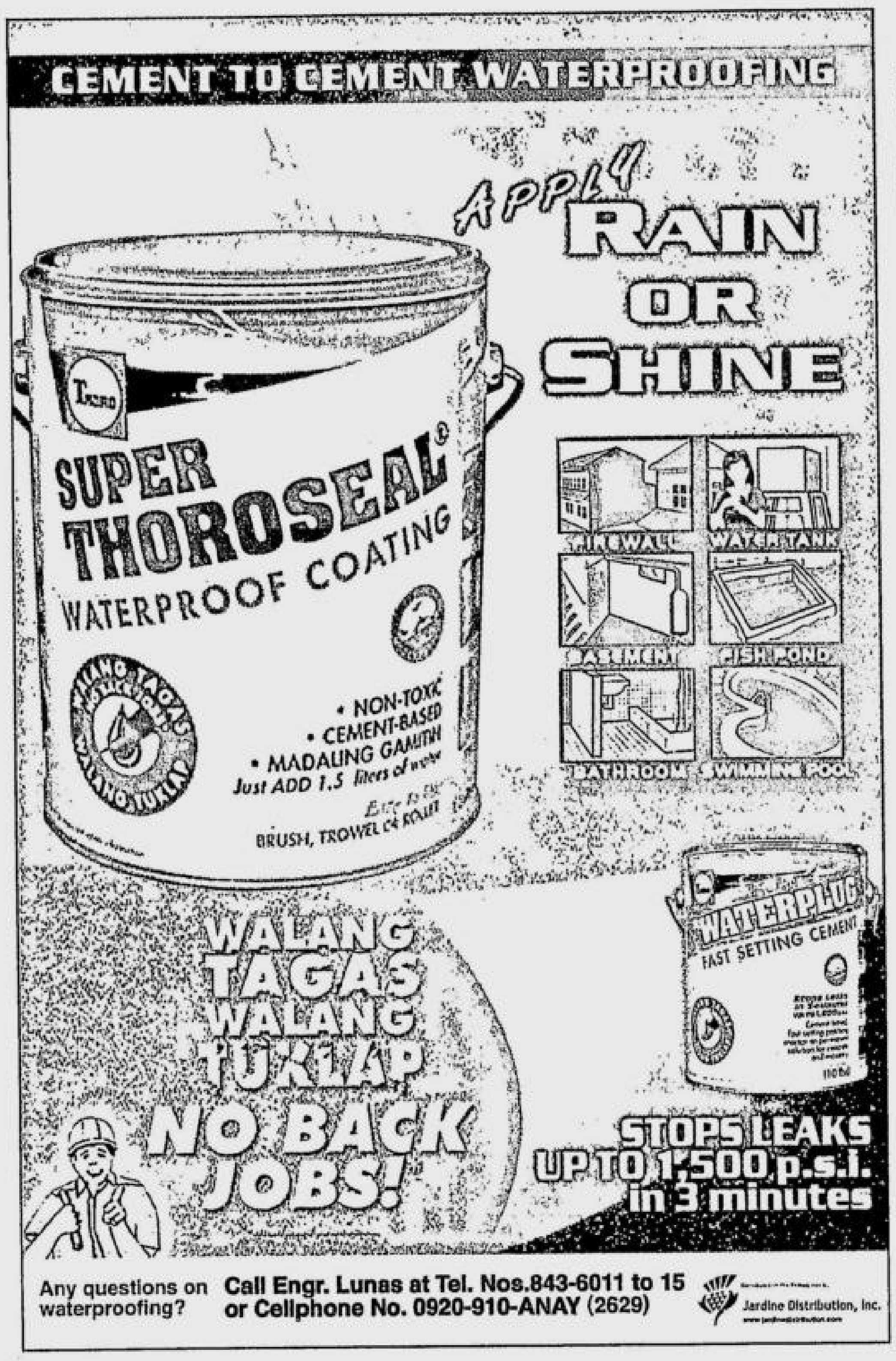
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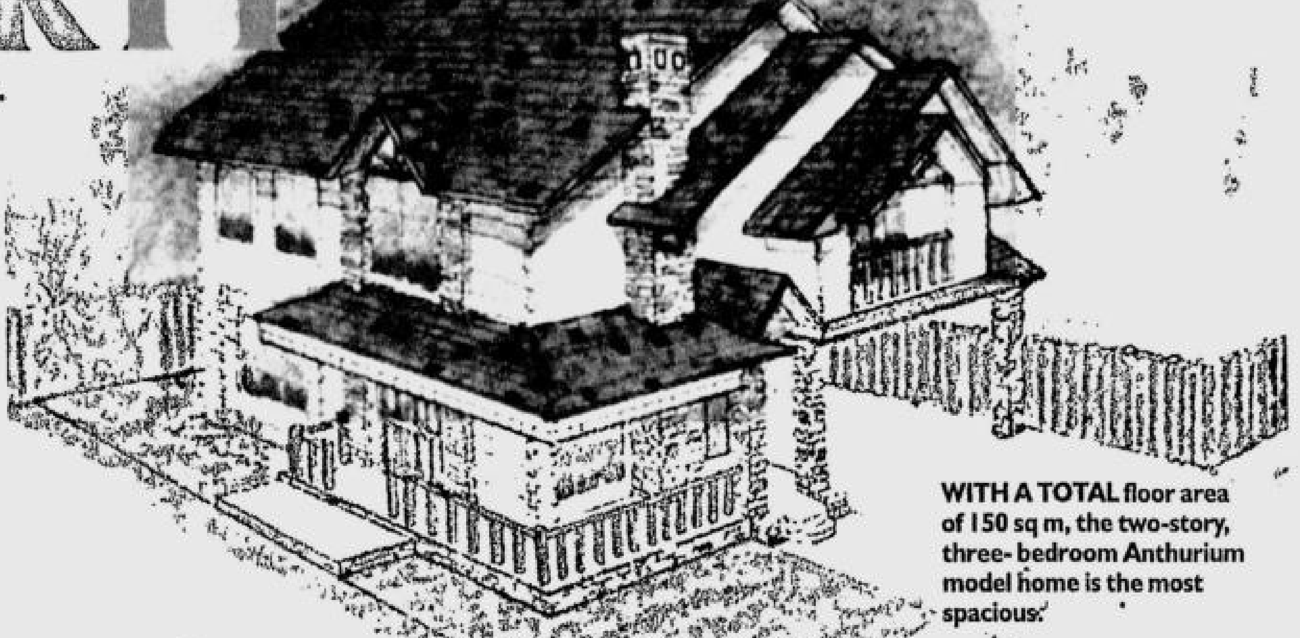


WITH A TOTAL floor area of 150 sq m, the two-story, three-bedroom Anthurium model home is the most spacious.

Flower garden community to rise in Tagaytay City

By Charles E. Buban

FOR DECADES, TAGAYTAY has been successfully attracting home developers to put their next project in this famous city known for its year-round cool climate, laid back atmosphere and proximity to Metro Manila.

One of these upcoming projects is Bloomfields Tagaytay, a private enclave that will soon rise along Tagaytay-Nasugbu highway (in front of Josephine's Restaurant).

"Bloomfields Tagaytay will be Robinsons Homes Inc.'s most exclusive residential community project to date. Expect the homes here to be spacious and well-appointed, amenities near, and of course, conveniently located to any destinations Tagaytay City is famous for," describes Marilu Alferez, RHI SVP and general manager.

The RHI (rhi@robinsonsland.com) is the housing subsidiary of Robinsons Land Corp., a real estate giant known for its industrial plants, malls and condominiums.

Only 106 lots available

Because of its exclusivity, Alferez says Bloomfields Tagaytay is only offering 106 lots (at P11,000/sq m) having lot cuts from 240 sq m and up.

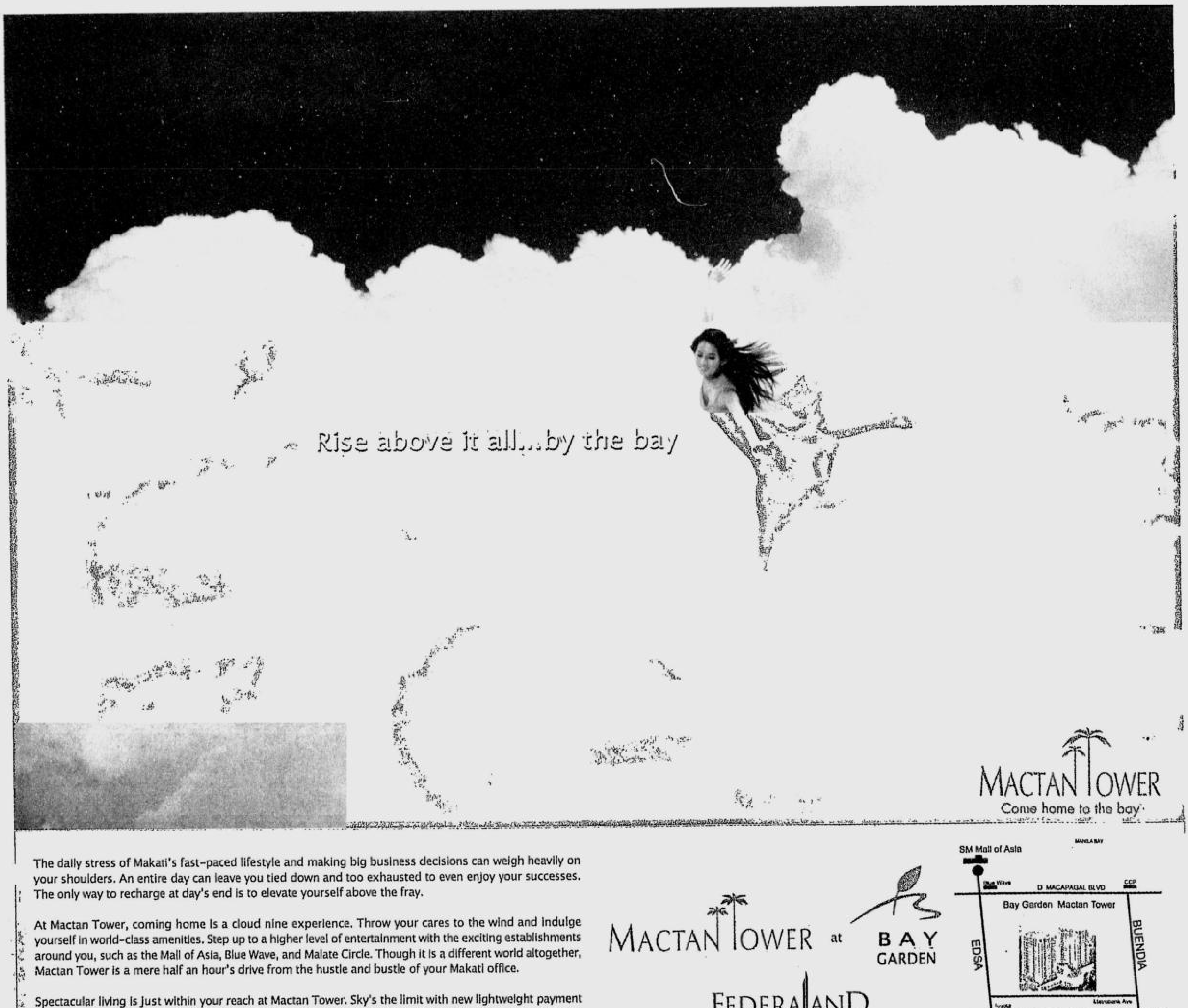
"However, should our homebuyers choose for a house and lot package, we also have three two-story house models designed around the American country homes: Iris, Anthurium and Cattleya (104 sq.m)," Alferez adds.

The 106-sq-m (total floor area) Iris home model carries a price tag of P6.34 million while the 150-sq-m Anthurium sells at P8.04 million.

According to Alferez, the whole community will carry an overall theme inspired by the American flower fields (thus, the names of the house models) so that every available space in the development will be devoted to flower gardens.

"Not many people may know it

FLOWER/B13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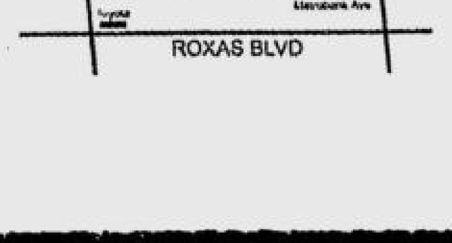

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Awards

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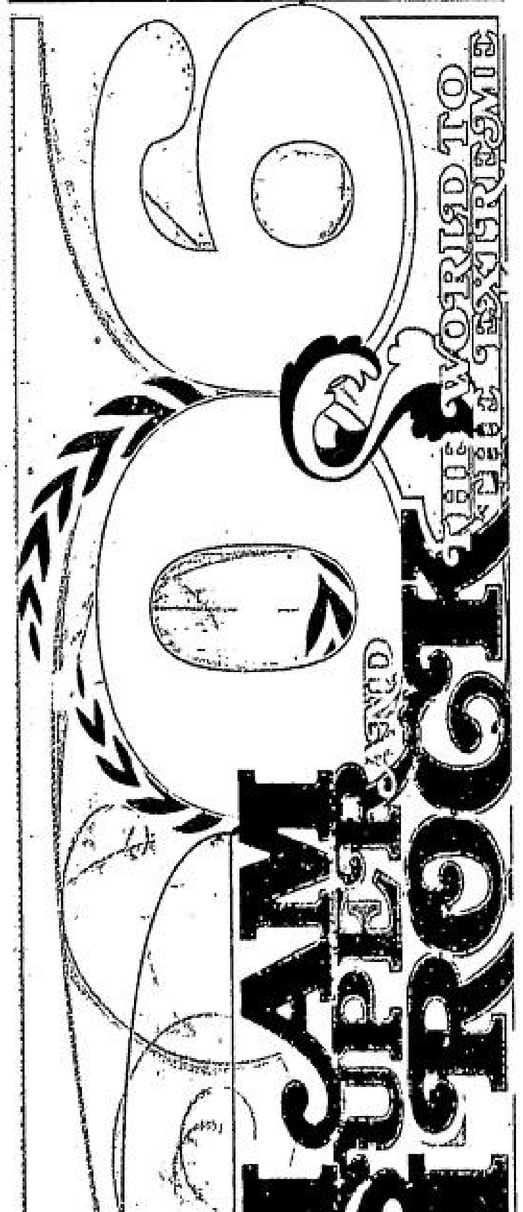
Super! and Astring-O-sol Ice take you to the Extreme with the 2006 'I am Super Awards' page D1

Super! Exclusive interview with Pinoy fashion wunderkind Lesley Mobo page C2

Only in Super! exclusives with Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom page E1

Open letter to the Fab Five page F1

Are Pinoys really rude? page G1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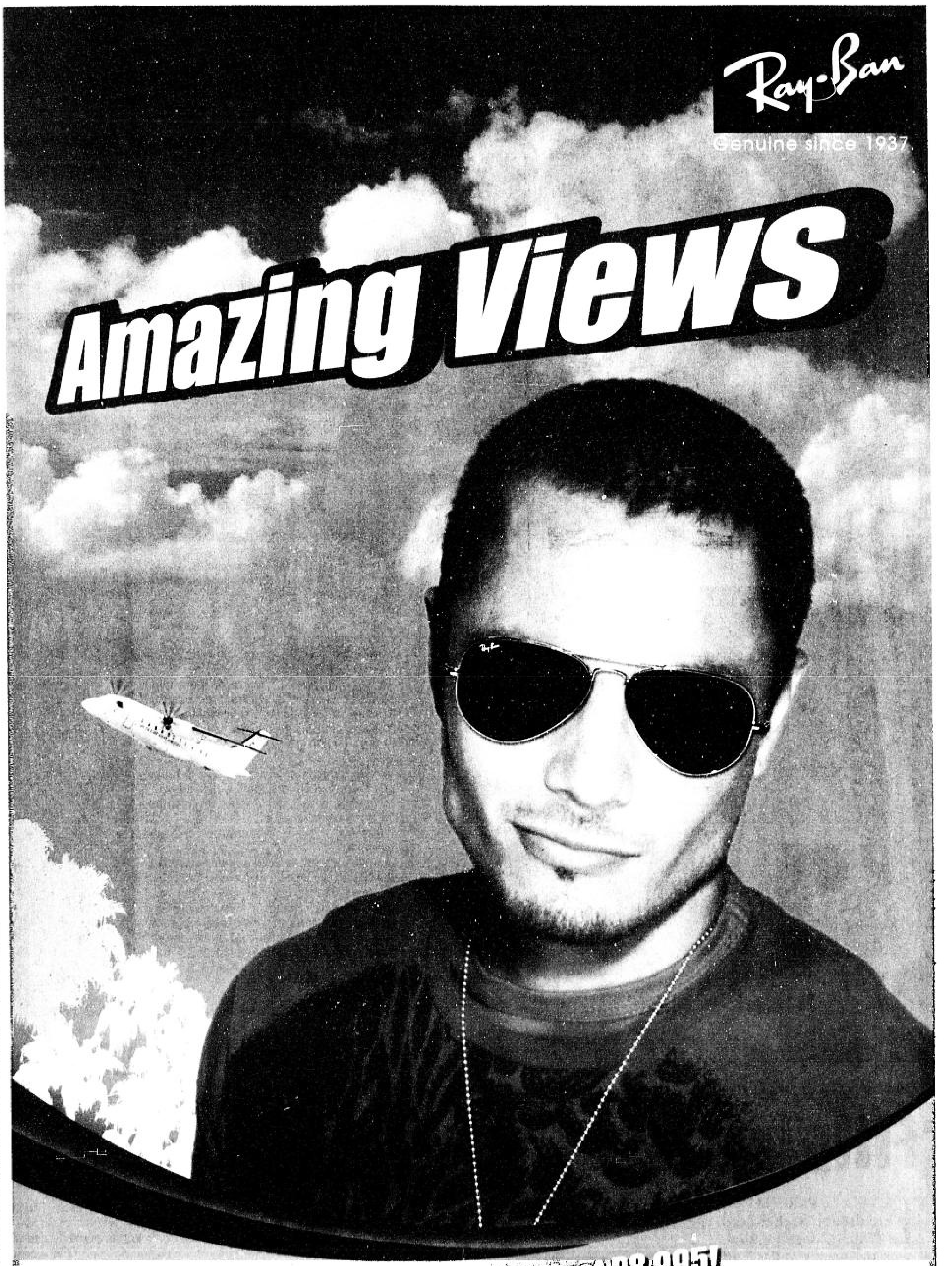

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Hello Mob

By Tim Yap

THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR the global Filipino. One such Pinoy who is waving our colors oh-so-proudly is Lesley Mobo, a young designer making us Super! proud in the fashion capital of London. Slowly and surely, he is rising up the ladder of success in the land of the Queen.

Super! had the rare pleasure of hanging out with the Pinoy wunderkind when he visited Manila in time for the launch of Absolut 1879. Just before the rains poured, Lesley and I had late lunch at the lobby lounge of the Makati Shangri-La and shared fashion notes with each other.

Most everyone thinks that people in fashion are all about fluff. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Lesley approaches his creations in a very intellectual manner. He leans towards a more directional approach and predicts the return of minimalism after all the bows of color that has pervaded today's fashion.

Here is a plateful of our Super! style discourse.

What are you working on right now?

At the moment I'm working with somebody on her label. It's really growing right now—it's called Jasmine Di Milo. It has really embraced the young girl market who like to dress up. After two years, it's already exclusive in Harrods. We also have a very strong market in the Middle East. We're also selling in Los Angeles and New York, just to name a few. It's growing really well.

When you design, do you ever think "hey, I wanna do this but it won't sell, so I'll scrap it for now"?

That is a question that you should always throw back to young designers. Having my formal training of 5 years in Central St. Martins, you know it's about full creativity. But now that I work in a retail environment, you also have to adjust to your market. We work in a very structured way—we work with a commercial structure and then a creative structure, at least that's how I do it. You should do commercial planning first and from that point, you do creative planning. That's how we always work. I learned it during my stay in Harrods. In the retail environment, where you always have to work with both corporate and professional, I infused it with my training in St. Martins. I think it's a perfect match. I managed to inject that ability and experience in this Jasmine Di Milo label.

You gear towards more commercial or more creative?

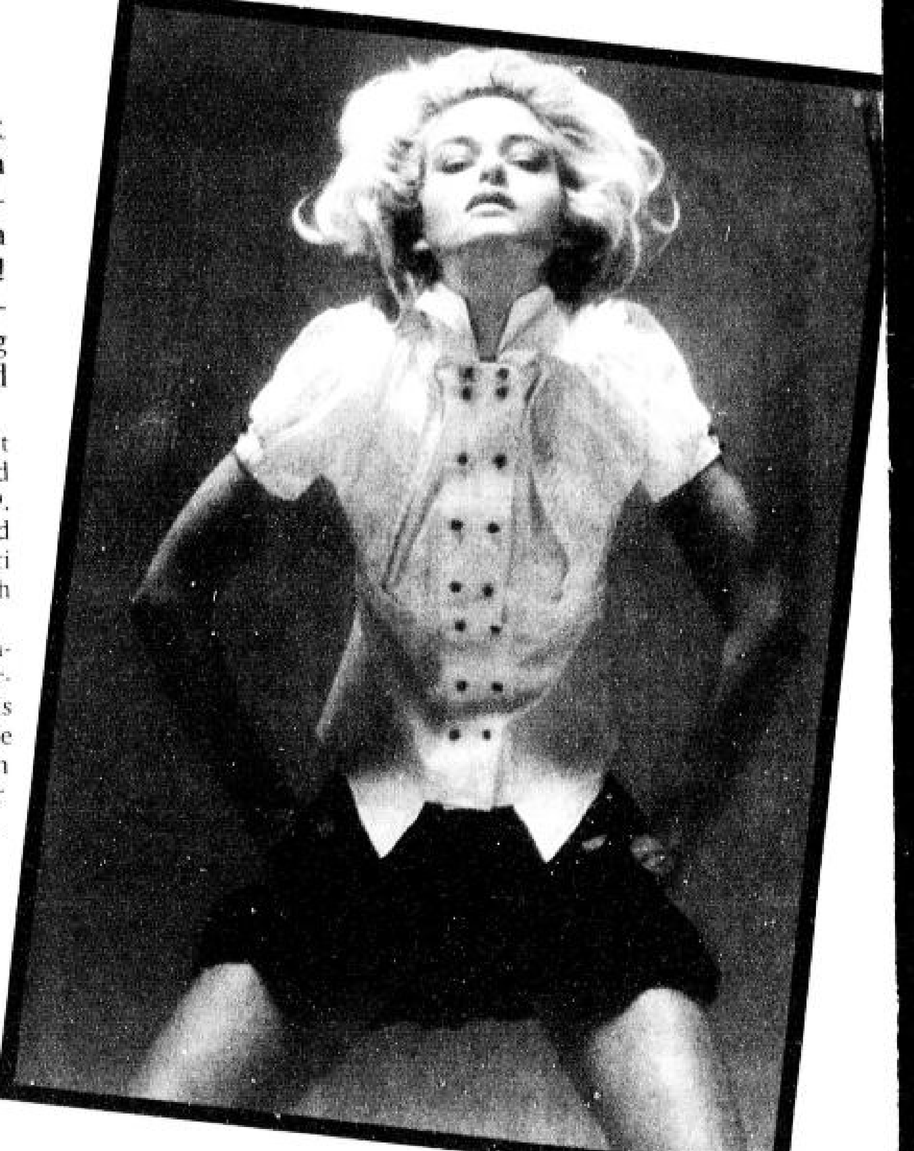
You should have a balance of those two. You need a structure. If you want to be a long-term business, you have to be clear about the ethos and the philosophy that you stand for. You want it to grow and to expand—you want people to embrace it. I think you have to invest time before you develop profit. Because otherwise you will never survive this industry. The bottomline is creativity but it has to be structured commercially.

How about really ostentatious fashion shows?

You do fashion shows to attract buyers. It's a marketing event not for entertainment. Yes, you show them your creativity but the bottomline is to show your intention, to sell.

How about avant garde designers, Galliano McQueen, Viktor and Rolf, et. al. where they create outlandish and not seemingly wearable pieces—how does it add to their saleability?

In the late '90s those were the show tactics. But now I think we are going back to being minimalists. Fashion is very important in such a way that it's a reflection of what's happening in society, politically, economy wise and



LESLEY Mobo's design for the Jasmine Di Milo collection, available at Harrod's

'Filipino Unrealism'

How a once hopeless 'batugan' queen had lately turned into an insomniac, in the the pursuit of encouraging dreaming in real li

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

TO SLEEP, PERCHANCE to dream, as that bard William once penned. It was my very simple (and admittedly pretentious) way of defending my extraordinary ability to outdo most people in one of the greatest pleasures of man—sleeping.

For once upon a time, and for a long long time in fact, I ruled as "Queen Batugan" in my home. Indeed, if sleeping was an Olympic sport, then I was the unrivalled gold medalist. I had a reputation among friends and family for being able to sleep for sixteen hours straight. My most dreaded enemy had been The Evil Alarm Clock. For in spite of its noble duty to pull me out of the dream realm in order to transport me back into the real world of study, work, unpaid credit card bills, mean taxi drivers and Kris Aquino, I treated that damn alarm clock as a formidable adversary. The most dreaded noise would be that grating ring that signalled the end of a seemingly eternal, fantastic journey. Hitting the snooze buton was simply an impossibility, so I would actually hurl it against the wall, hoping that within that wonderful twilight between slumber and wakefulness, I would manage to stay a little longer in that limitless universe of the subconscious. Just to be allowed to enjoy my dreams, even for two minutes more.

For in that crazy, surreal world, I strangely felt like I belonged there. In that galaxy of the imagination, there inhabited the figments of my subconscious that knew no boundaries of time, space, or logic. Where to begin? I would dream of flying over trees where fish grew instead of fruit; of meeting black-clad sorceresses standing behind a purple canopy of stars, of luminous spheres guiding me through a land of pterodactyls. In that Otherworld, I could have Tapa King with the Sphinx one minute, then be whisked off to a cafe to hold conversations with both Buddha and Jesus in Macchu Picchu, and then lie on a beautiful beach with angels on my side. Oh, and...um, there'd be romantic dates with both Gael Garcia Bernal and Johnny Depp, but what transpired after that dinner is a well-kept secret between ourselves.

A Visa for one

Thus, these strange, wonderful, stupid, silly, absurd and magical vignettes of the incomprehensible subconscious mind would become esential topics among close friends the morning after. Those worlds would be each person's personal zip code of the mind, and I'd be enchanted listening about those travel voyages to incredible worlds that only offered a visa for one. Whether they were sweet dreams or terrifying nightmares, it was always a pleasure to hear about those refreshing escapes and fantastical encounters. And in those moments, reality would just be a tad more fascinating, even for but a fleeting moment.

I guess I was just allergic to ordinary things in ordinary worlds, and thus dreams became the one thing I looked forward to every night.

The Dream King

And that is why when I was first introduced to the worlds painted in pages of "The Sandman," I was immediately enraptured. For here were tales of that dream world that I had longed to live in for so long. It was here that I was first introuced to The Dream King, to Morpheus, the elusive, melancholic entity that ruled the Kingdom where I had overstayed with delight.

Then it came to pass, one year ago, that a crazy dream of mine actually came true. For the creator of "The Sandman," Neil Gaiman, had come to Manila for the first time. Suddenly, that "ordinary world" had already turned upside-down.

Neil's Filipino fans all know that he was overwhelmed, shocked, and even glad to have been screamed and shouted at upon his arrival. It even got him to think that it was all "a big mistake" and that maybe the three-thousand-strong rabble of Pinoy fans had mistook him for a famous rock star.

Because of the immensely successful booksigning, Neil Gaiman made a promise to give something, a "surprise" back to the Filipino people. This of course, was eventually re-
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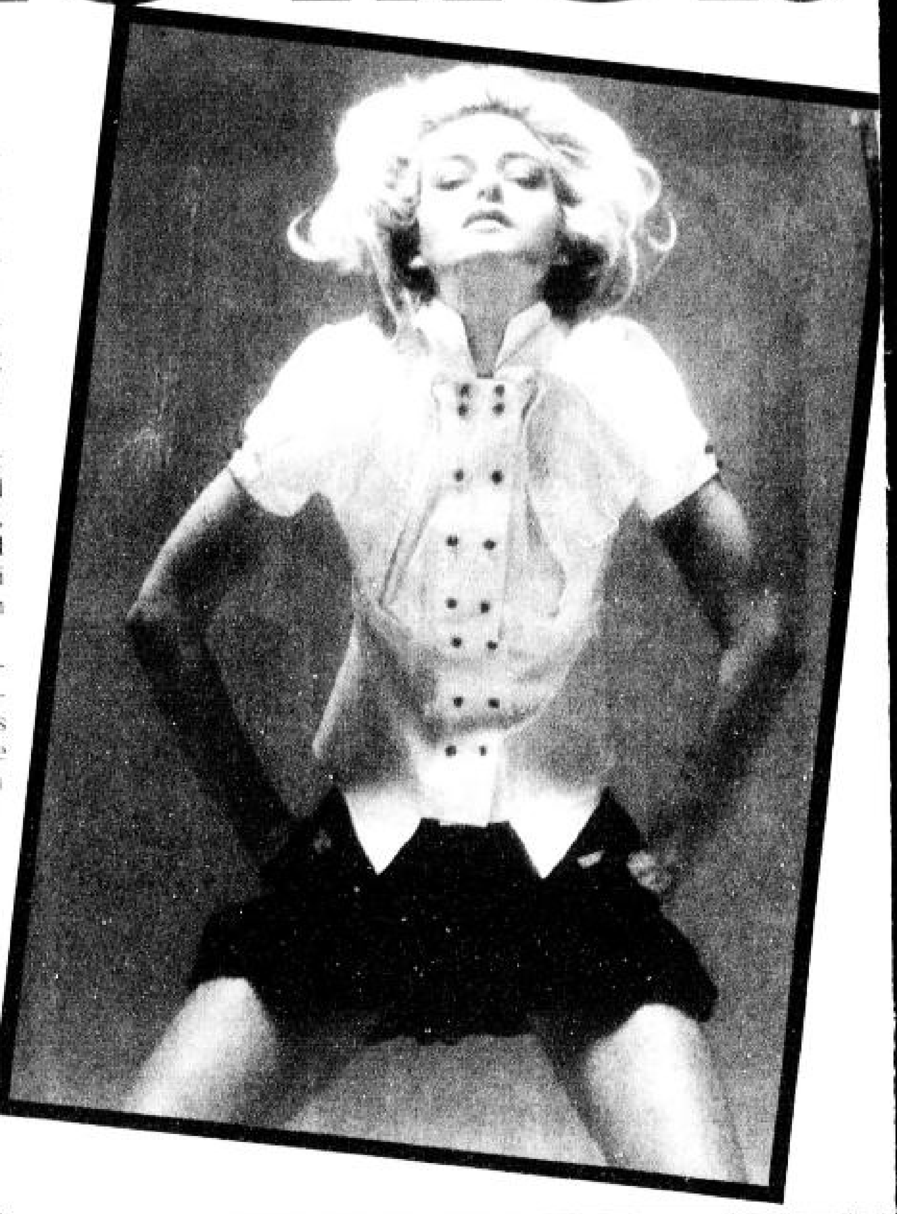
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Hello Mob

By Tim Yap



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Here is a plateful of our Super! style discourse.

What are you working on right now?

At the moment I'm working with somebody on her label. It's really growing right now—it's called Jasmine Di Milo. It has really embraced the young girl market who like to dress up. After two years, it's already exclusive in Harrods. We also have a very strong market in the Middle East. We're also selling in Los Angeles and New York, just to name a few. It's growing really well.

When you design, do you ever think "hey, I wanna do this but it won't sell, so I'll scrap it for now"?

That is a question that you should always throw back to young designers. Having my formal training of 5 years in Central St. Martins, you know it's about full creativity. But now that I work in a retail environment, you also have to adjust to your market. We work in a very structured way—we work with a commercial structure and then a creative structure, at least that's how I do it. You should do commercial planning first and from that point, you do creative planning. That's how we always work. I learned it during my stay in Harrods. In the retail environment, where you always have to work with both corporate and professional, I infused it with my training in St. Martins. I think it's a perfect match. I managed to inject that ability and experience in this Jasmine Di Milo label.

You gear towards more commercial or more creative?

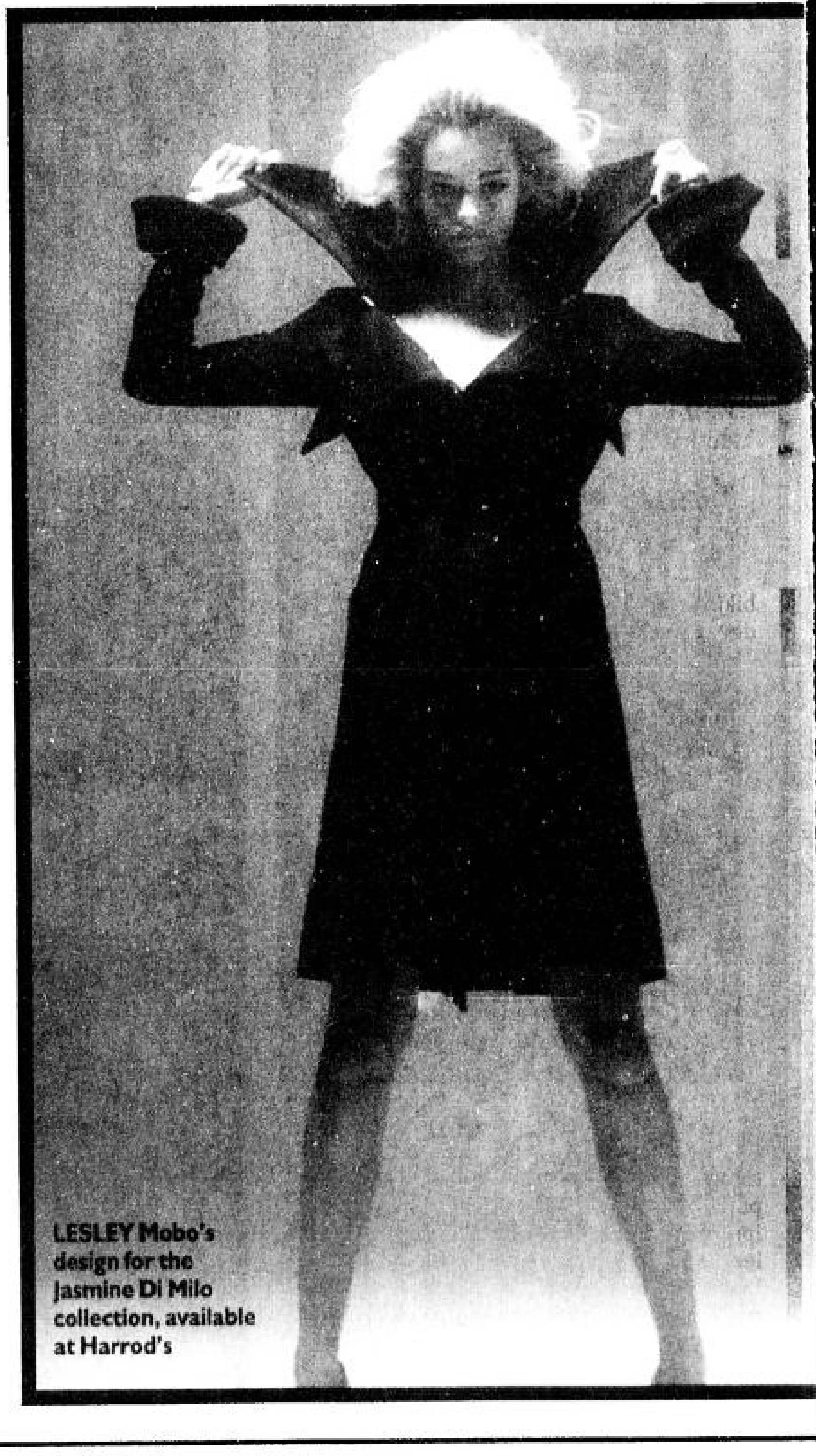
You should have a balance of those two. You need a structure. If you want to be a long-term business, you have to be clear about the ethos and the philosophy that you stand for. You want it to grow and to expand—you want people to embrace it. I think you have to invest time before you develop profit. Because otherwise you will never survive this industry. The bottomline is creativity but it has to be structured commercially.

How about really ostentatious fashion shows?

You do fashion shows to attract buyers. It's a marketing event not for entertainment. Yes, you show them your creativity but the bottomline is to show your intention, to sell.

How about avant garde designers, Galliano McQueen, Viktor and Rolf, et. al. where they create outlandish and not seemingly wearable pieces—how does it add to their saleability?

In the late '90s those were the show tactics. But now I think we are going back to being minimalists. Fashion is very important in such a way that it's a reflection of what's happening in society, politically, economy wise and



LESLEY Mobo's design for the Jasmine Di Milo collection, available at Harrod's

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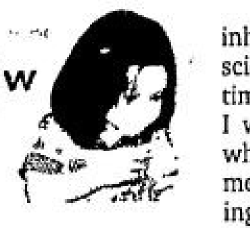
'Filipino Unrealism'

How a once hopeless 'batugan' queen had lately turned into an insomniac, in the the pursuit of encouraging dreaming in real li

OUT THE WINDOW



Tals Diaz

TO SLEEP, PERCHANCE to dream, as that bard William once penned. It was my very simple (and admittedly pretentious) way of defending my extraordinary ability to outdo most people in one of the greatest pleasures of man—sleeping.

For once upon a time, and for a long long time in fact, I ruled as "Queen Batugan" in my home. Indeed, if sleeping was an Olympic sport, then I was the unrivalled gold medalist. I had a reputation among friends and family for being able to sleep for sixteen hours straight. My most dreaded enemy had been The Evil Alarm Clock. For in spite of its noble duty to pull me out of the dream realm in order to transport me back into the real world of study, work, unpaid credit card bills, mean taxi drivers and Kris Aquino, I treated that damn alarm clock as a formidable adversary. The most dreaded noise would be that grating ring that signalled the end of a seemingly eternal, fantastic journey. Hitting the snooze buton was simply an impossibility, so I would actually hurl it against the wall, hoping that within that wonderful twilight between slumber and wakefulness, I would manage to stay a little longer in that limitless universe of the subconscious. Just to be allowed to enjoy my dreams, even for two minutes more.

For in that crazy, surreal world, I strangely felt like I belonged there. In that galaxy of the imagination, there inhabited the figments of my subconscious that knew no boundaries of time, space, or logic. Where to begin? I would dream of flying over trees where fish grew instead of fruit; of meeting black-clad sorceresses standing behind a purple canopy of stars, of luminous spheres guiding me through a land of pterodactyls. In that Otherworld, I could have Tapa King with the Sphinx one minute, then be whisked off to a cafe to hold conversations with both Buddha and Jesus in Macchu Picchu, and then lie on a beautiful beach with angels on my side. Oh, and...um, there'd be romantic dates with both Gael Garcia Bernal and Johnny Depp, but what transpired after that dinner is a well-kept secret between ourselves.

A Visa for one

Thus, these strange, wonderful, stupid, silly, absurd and magical vignettes of the incomprehensible subconscious mind would become esential topics among close friends the morning after. Those worlds would be each person's personal zip code of the mind, and I'd be enchanted listening about those travel voyages to incredible worlds that only offered a visa for one. Whether they were sweet dreams or terrifying nightmares, it was always a pleasure to hear about those refreshing escapes and fantastical encounters. And in those moments, reality would just be a tad more fascinating, even for but a fleeting moment.

I guess I was just allergic to ordinary things in ordinary worlds, and thus dreams became the one thing I looked forward to every night.

The Dream King

And that is why when I was first introduced to the worlds painted in pages of "The Sandman," I was immediately enraptured. For here were tales of that dream world that I had longed to live in for so long. It was here that I was first introuced to The Dream King, to Morpheus, the elusive, melancholic entity that ruled the Kingdom where I had overstayed with delight.

Then it came to pass, one year ago, that a crazy dream of mine actually came true. For the creator of "The Sandman," Neil Gaiman, had come to Manila for the first time. Suddenly, that "ordinary world" had already turned upside-down.

Neil's Filipino fans all know that he was overwhelmed, shocked, and even glad to have been screamed and shouted at upon his arrival. It even got him to think that it was all "a big mistake" and that maybe the three-thousand-strong rabble of Pinoy fans had mistook him for a famous rock star.

Because of the immensely successful booksigning, Neil Gaiman made a promise to give something, a "surprise" back to the Filipino people. This of course, was eventually re-

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

O!

Super! sits down for an exclusive chat with Pinoy fashion wunderkind, Lesley Mobo

the country's cultural climate. And we're going back to minimalism because that's what happening. *Maraming naghihirap*, I think designers did it as a marketing strategy. Designers all over the world know how to structure their collections. They always manage it in three different sectors. You have the bread and butter pieces, which will make the money; the signature or reference for the core collection to tell the people, the *fashionistas* and the buyers, that this is the new trend, that this is the new collection; and then you have the show pieces.

How much of the collection becomes show pieces?

It should be about 15 percent of your collection. But with people like Galliano and Mcqueen, they tend to show 30 or even 50 percent of show pieces for their shows. But these show pieces are not accessible. You can only get these by made to measure if you're a big customer. But if you go to McQueen, Galliano or Dior shops, what you see are simplified versions of those ideas.

What do you think of trends and people's propensity to follow?

I think trends are very tricky. It depends on how a good a designer is and what the designer stands for. Some brands depend on trends because there are certain colors that would sell and certain people would buy it because that is the trend.

But there are designers who are creatively strong enough that they can singlehandedly create their own trend.

Is fashion now more designer-driven or consumer-driven?

I'm really concerned about consumer attitude—what they want and need. At the moment the industry is pressured because every six months they have to create a trend. There's a trend for the sake of having a trend. So now the trend for trend's sake is the return of minimalism in design. It's a reverse reaction from the consumer to the retailer to the supplier.

How about on the retail side of the fence?

Retail wise, there's a return to globalization. The return of having a one-on-one relationship between the customer and the brand. All those big brands have the pressure to make the consumers feel that the clothes were made specially for them. I think you have to embrace that if you want to last in this industry.

What did you do for Absolut this time?

I think they did bags before, then shirts, then now underwear. Actually the whole plan is to create a whole collection of underwear.

There were some designers who made bikinis, some made bloomers—I ended up doing menswear. The brief of the project is 1879, the year Absolut was founded. I had to come up with a design that is related to that year.

So how was your design process for that particular brief, a year in history?

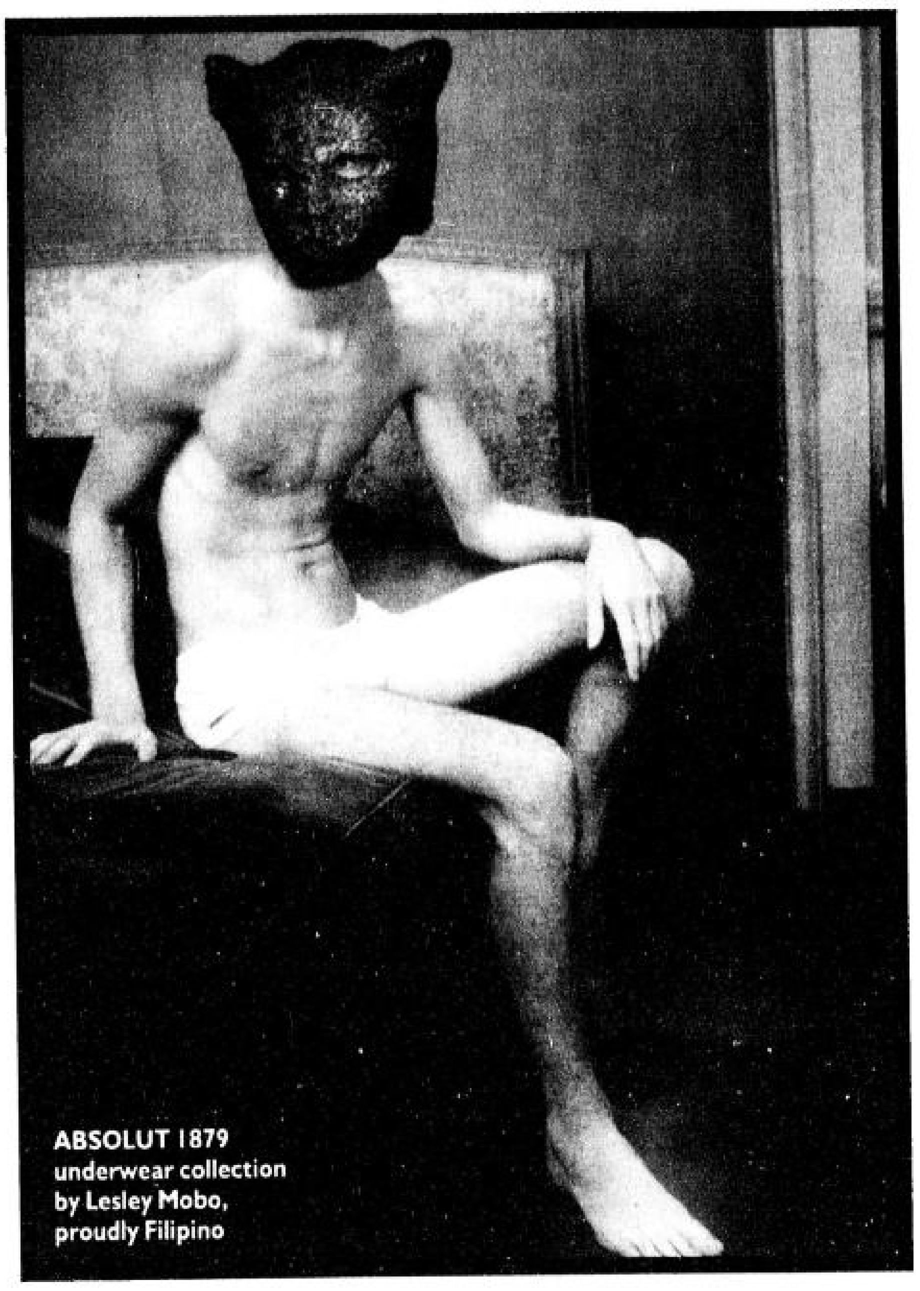
I limited myself to three keywords. There was a lot of movement at that decade. You have the Victorian, so my first keyword was the "corset," then the second is the "silhouette"—since this was for menswear it had to be classic. And the third, I wanted it to be "personalized."

And then you had the iconic Absolut bottle there somewhere.

If you look at the Absolut label there, it looks like *kumuha ka lang ng* pentel pen. It's very amateur. It's like for mothers when you give a handkerchief and they stitch it with red embroidery. It's very personalized. So there, those are the three elements that I've put altogether. And as part of my being Filipino, they brought me here to show the collection.

After your Jasmine Di Milo line, are you planning to have your own line?

I accepted this responsibility because I'm very much attracted to its philosophy. When they offered and showed me what it stands for, the message that they want to tell—I was like, it was enough to get me attracted to it.



ABSOLUT 1879
underwear collection
by Lesley Mobo,
proudly Filipino

What is your personal design philosophy?

It's always about empowerment. I will always keep on tracing and celebrating modern identity. It's like a deformed image. It's all about deformed beauty. Its beauty in terms of residues and fragments, It's really abstract as of now. I think we have to be directional, if we're not directional, we'll always go back to the past.

You think that's the reason why designers always make references to the past?

The problem in fashion is that, we don't have more time to create a directional piece. Because we only have six months to create it. Unlike for cars where it can be created every two years. It's like "*Wala akong magawa, babalik na lang ako sa luma*." I think being directional is really hard but it's the biggest challenge.

Where do you get inspiration?

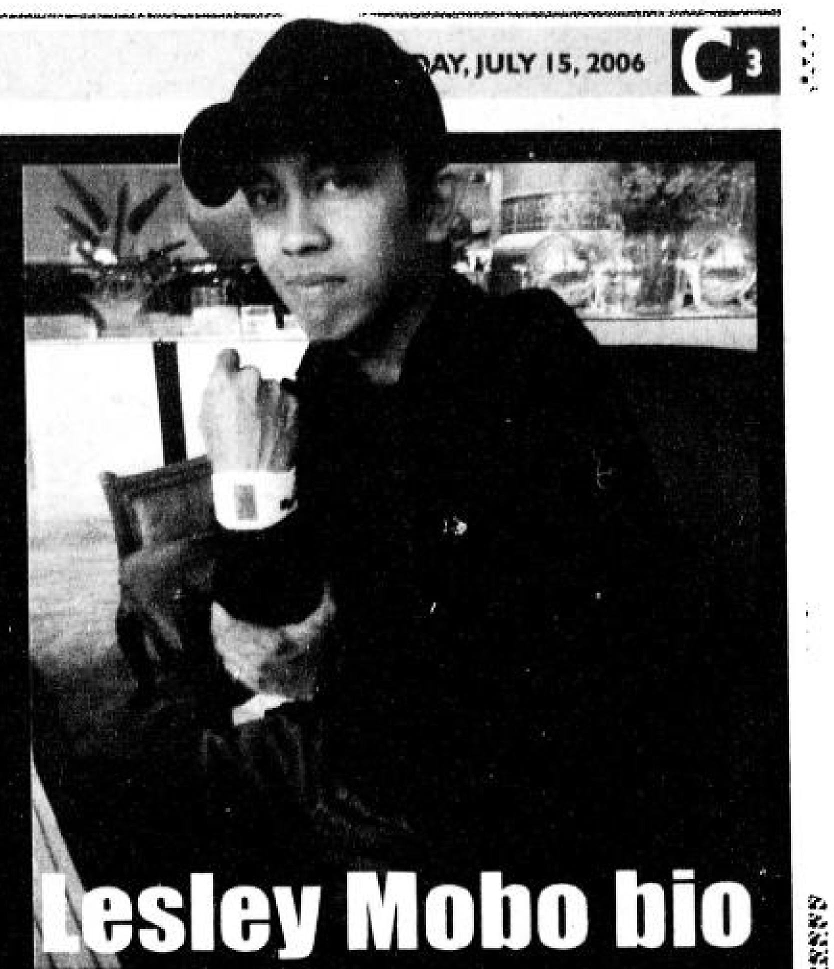
It depends on which market you are selling to. For me right now, my market is London. Fashion in London still lives in the streets. I would stay I would still look for inspiration in the streets.

So now when you go back to London what is your day like?

It's very normal—I do my job, I go to work, and I do my responsibility. Fashion is not a glamorous job. Most of the time I work beyond office hours—staying until one or two a.m. You really have to be dedicated.

At this point in your life, what excites you?

The fact that I like what I'm doing. To be able to make a living out of what I do is such an amazing thing. To be able to voice out and to create collections is a great source of pride. And for people to buy the collection is a great source of satisfaction.



Lesley Mobo bio

On February 19th, 2005, Filipino designer Lesley Mobo made his stunning debut at London Fashion Week. Fashion critics applauded his creativity with fabric; Mobo is a new graduate of Central Saint Martins. The fashion design school has a slot at the end of London Fashion Week to show off its latest graduates, and it was here that he made his debut. His work consists of a combination of Filipino imagination and British tutelage. Elegance and compexity is combined in equal measure. Both elements weave together in a dazzling display of craftsmanship and art on the catwalk. Currently, he is designing for department store Harrods and is head of design for Harrods newest label, Jasmine Di Milo. And if that wasn't enough, he is also the latest winner of the ITS festival, the premier young designers' competition of the moment. A simple blend of modern and historical, Lesley takes classic men's underwear and adds a nod to 1879 through the complex suspenders that are built into his piece. ABSOLUT is stitched onto the waistband for good measure. "I think that it is clothing, and in this case men's underwear, which helps reform the body, or gender, rather than cosmetics, for example. The material has a multitude of meanings; displays of power, reproduction, sociographic and theoretical approaches. My item is men's underwear in 100% cotton fabric with 'Moulin Rouge'-inspired elastic suspenders in white placed and stitched on the waistband area."

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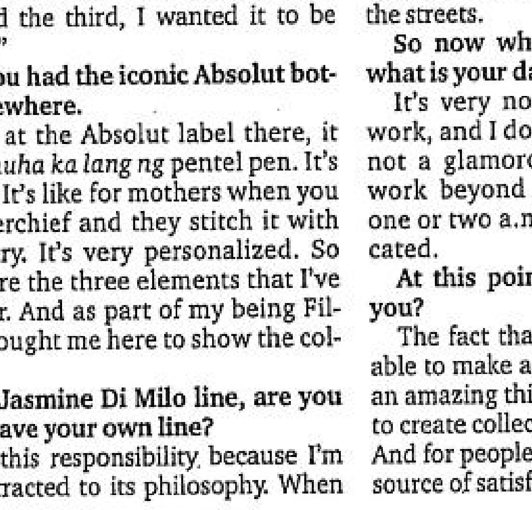

islands. Today we still remember the legends told to us in our youth, such as the sleeping woman of Mount Makiling, or even that our race descended from a man and woman named Malakas and Maganda who emerged from split bamboo.

Are you for surreal?

In the many months that led up to the first ever Philippine Graphic/Fiction awards, (that is happening today by the way), I was thrust in that beautiful, surreal world of dreams in the waking world. Friends, acquaintances, artists and strangers would talk to me of their story ideas drawn from their reveries and fantasies. They explored their imagination, inspired by Gaiman, to create their own unreal worlds. For me, the world had already become a much more interesting place.

The greatest irony of this whole affair was that because of all this behind-the-scene toil, I had developed an incurable case of insomnia....the price to pay I believed, for exploring the rich imagination of Filipinos everywhere.

Yet all those sleepless nights in the past several months were absolutely worth it. For it was all in the pursuit of injecting a bit of fantasy in our lives, in order for us all to deal better with reality.

The First Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards of Neil Gaiman and Fully Booked will be held today at the Rockwell Tent, from 10AM to 10PM. All fellow dreamers are welcome.

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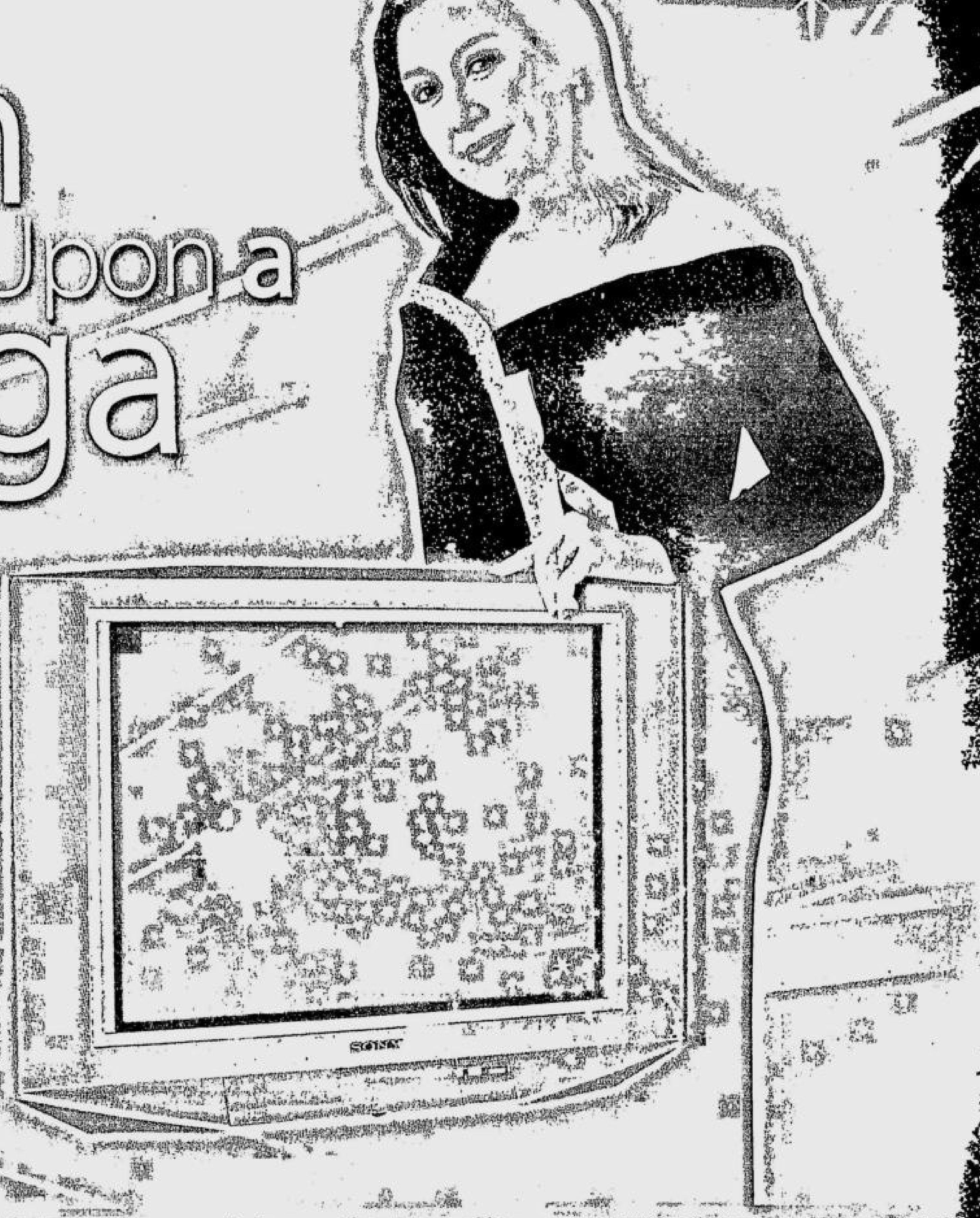

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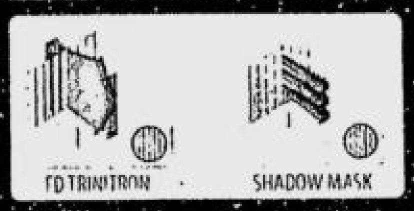

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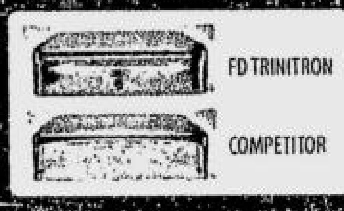

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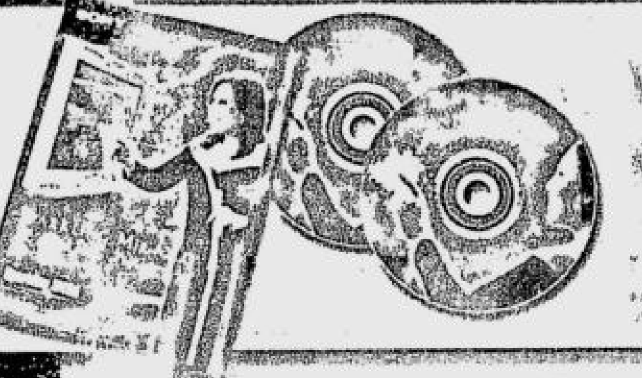

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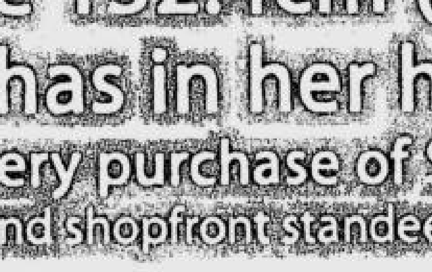

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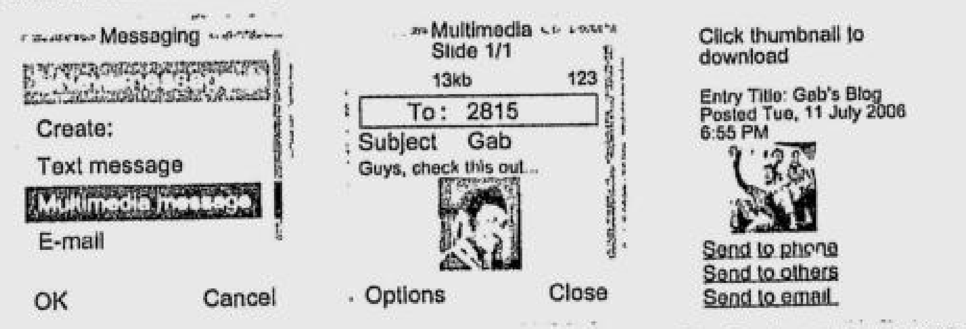

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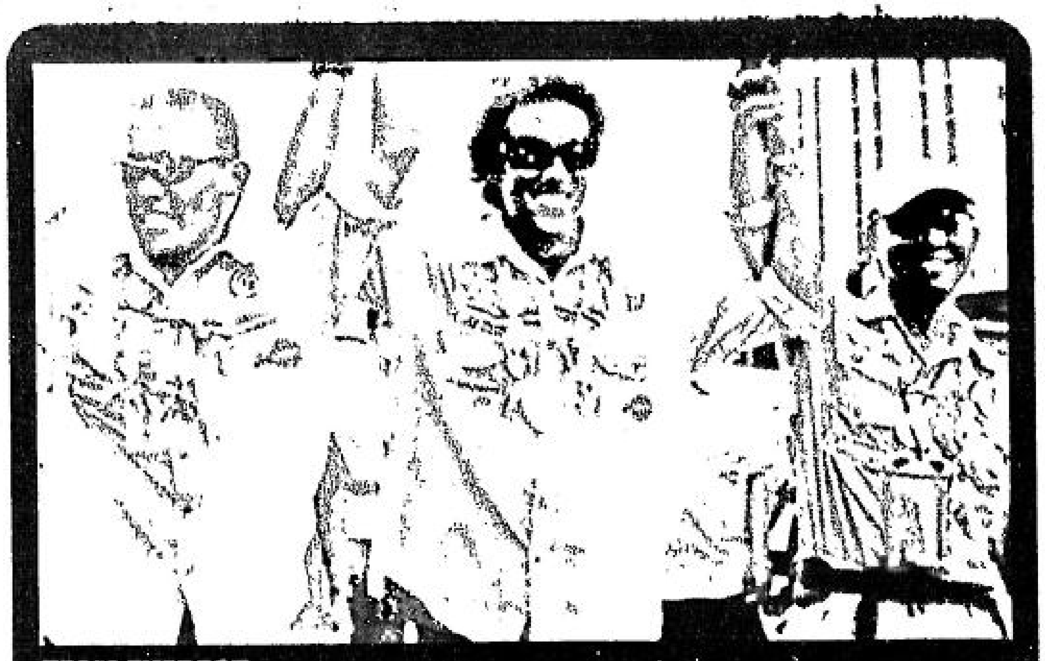
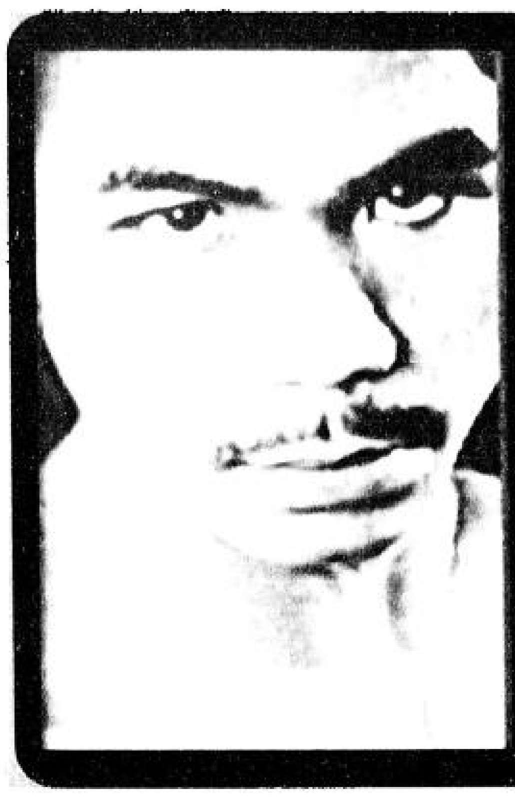


TEAM EVEREST
These high climbing Pinoys prove that "Ain't no mountain high enough."



MANNY PACQUIAO
Love Natin 'To—the whole country's fists were clenched in victory as Manny Pacquiao showed the world the strength of the Filipino spirit.

Super Heroes within our midst

LAUREN DYOGI
He is the real Big Brother, who quenched the thirst of Filipino voyeurs, discovering new reality stars along the way.

Tim Yap

IN A BEWILDERING ERA OF infinite options—of fantaserye and reality bite television, unlimited texting and international roaming, super-sized meals and low-carb diets, luxury stores and Ukay Shops—it is the easiest thing to get lost in the whirl of the moment.

Some say that we thrive in a generation that is spoiled for choice, resulting in [illegible]. Instead of acting up, it leaves young people undecided to do anything for fear of going badly. The adults stick to their tested formulas because they have always worked and the kids are divided in the direction they intend to take. Sounds more confusing? With all the blurred lines covering the surface, what it really is is a post-modern post-millennium [illegible] that brings us to the cusp of change.

We have been heralding this turning point since our inception three years ago and we continue to [illegible] our [illegible]. We are Super! And we rock the world to the extreme!

This day and age sees so many people living within the confines of safety. But here in Super!, our battle cry is to take it to the extreme.

By this we don't mean living a life of going beyond convention but spearheading a movement of [illegible]. Taking it to the extreme means knowing yourself and knowing where you want to go, doing everything [illegible] possible to get to that point, maybe the peak of Everest, your first film project, an elusive gold medal, raising funds for the less fortunate, promoting healthy living or getting your country plugged on the global map.

You see, we believe that youth is never wasted on the young. The following list is our [illegible] awards for our third year and counting, celebrating [illegible] people to those who we think are Super! We've chosen [illegible] their achievements in various fields of style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment and recreation—they're all Super! and they're rocking the world to the extreme.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE MORELOS

AMINA ARANAZ
Her creations have reached the shelves of the fashion conscious global set while retaining their distinctively Pinoy flair.

BUTLER REZ
[illegible]

TEAM MANILA
Their Pinoy-centric design philosophy has brought Filipino lifestyle to another exciting level, giving rise to a 'Pinoy and Proud' Super! generation.

PAOLO PINEDA
[illegible]

THE RACERS
Michelle Bumgarner, Dado Peña and Tyson Sy prove that speed is not a bad thing, if you know how to drive in the right direction.

ROCK ED
Their slogan is "No more excuses Philippines!" They're Super! in such a way that they act more than they speak.

RAYA MARTIN
He shot his first film by "going to the island at the edge of the world" alone with his camera. It doesn't take worldwide recognition for one to be Super! It takes guts, eagerness and drive to do what you love—Raya has all these.

ALL STARS
They represented the Philippines in global hip hop meets—they danced their way to global acclaim, raising the roof for Filipino performers worldwide. For us, they "take the lead!"

Our extreme partner: Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme

GET EXTREME PROTECTION
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EXTREME

THE 2006 SUPER AWARDS wouldn't be possible without our Super presenter—new Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme.

They call it a breakthrough in breath protection, we call it our extreme partner.

Because they support our campaign for extreme youth empowerment and we support their advocacy—fresh breath.

Who doesn't, right?

No to breath monsters

They say the true test of love is if you can stand to wake up next to the person you're with. And for a significant number of people, this statement is probably true, especially for those who start their day, with morning breath monsters as partners.

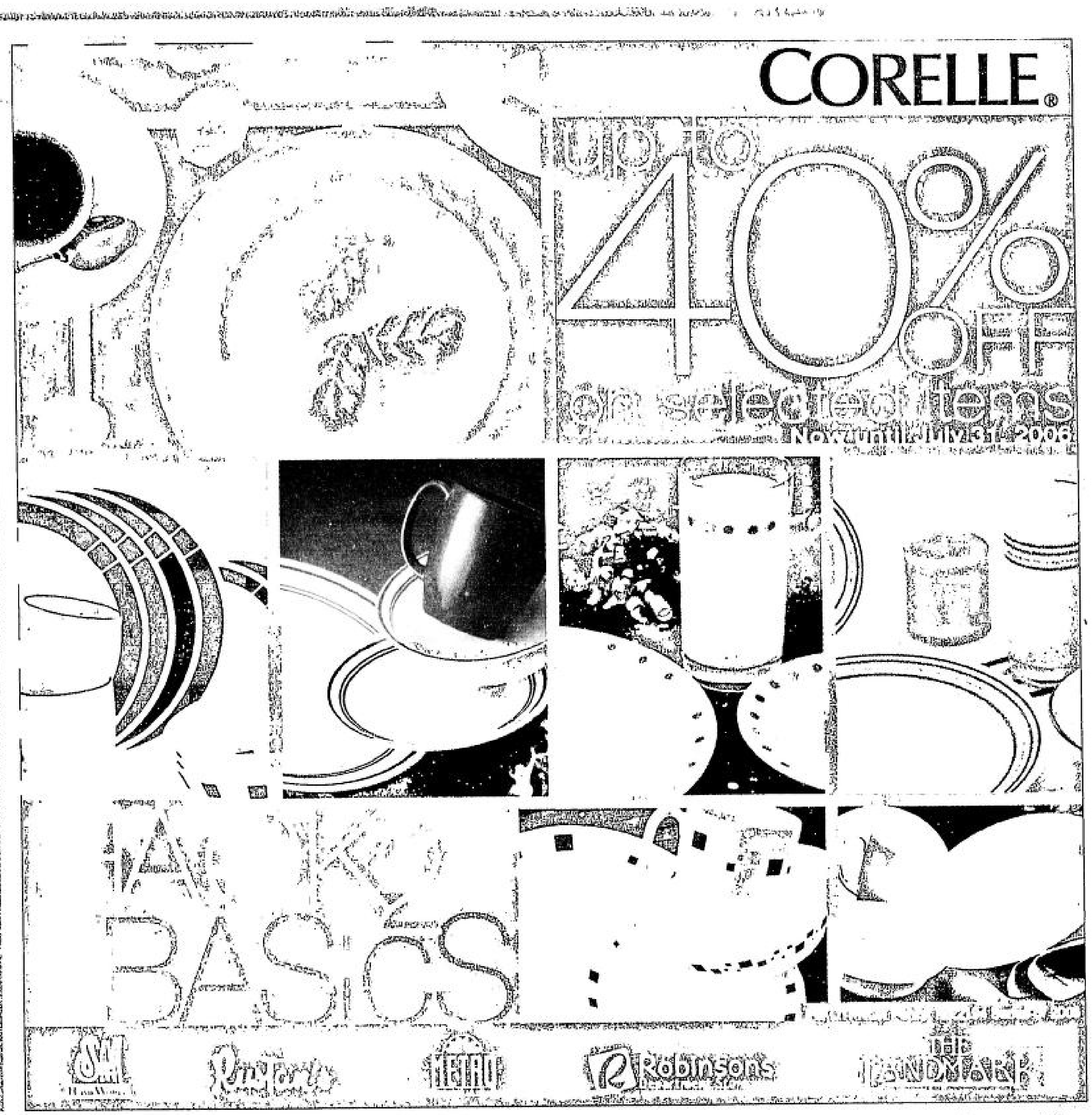
Morning breath is that foul-smelling odor, coming from the mouth, which people experience when they wake up. Oh yes, this is a pop culture fact. We bet even Brandon Routh's super mouth smells funny in the morning. It is a "silent" condition that affects a multitude of people—super or not super. Most of them don't even know they have morning breath unless someone else tells them they have it. Like Lois. More often than not though, persons with morning breath never find out—until it's too late—in the afternoon.

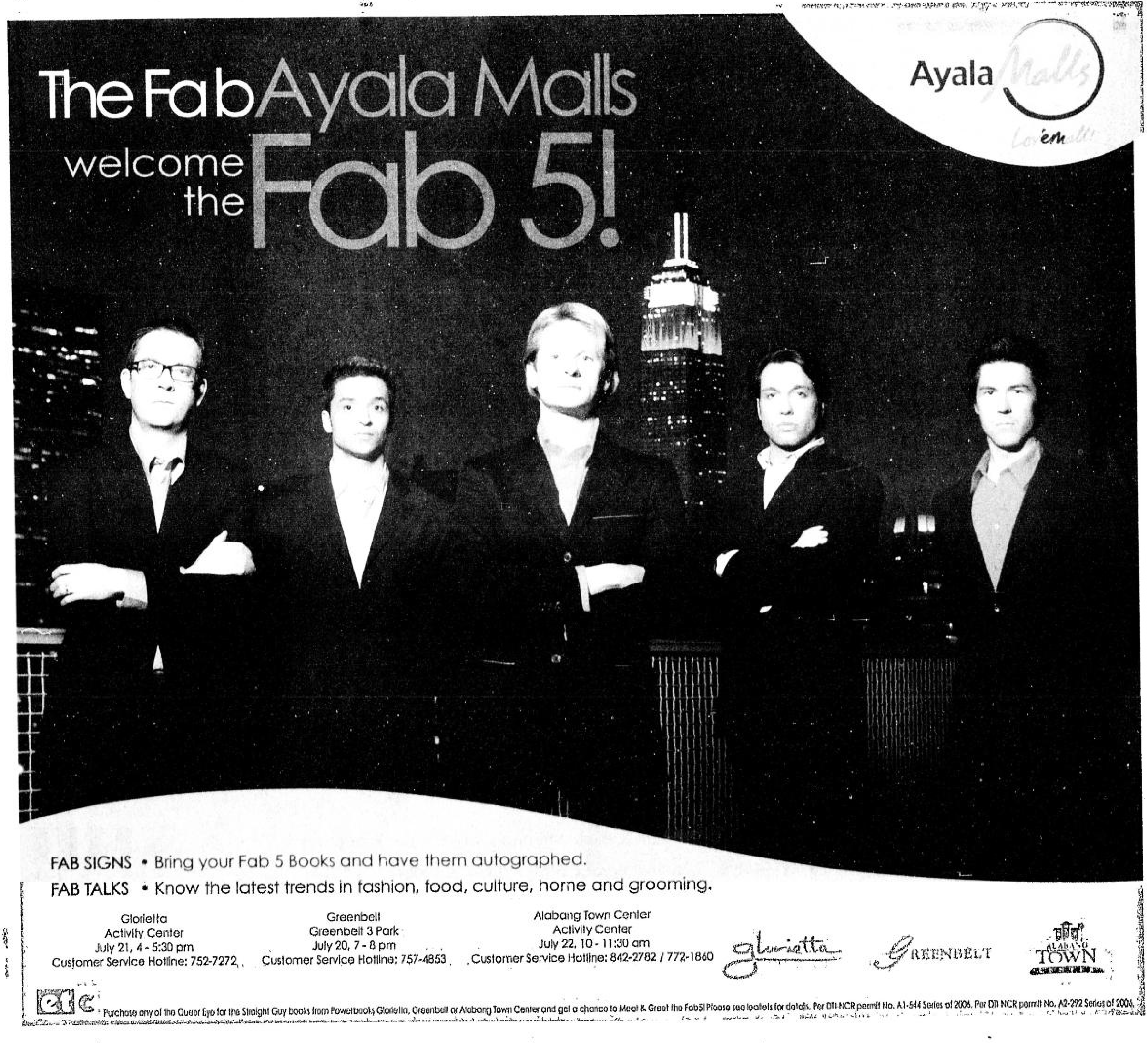
Bad breath can be caused by a variety of reasons: diet (skip the garlic when you're out on a date), dryness of the palate, bad oral hygiene (don't skip the toothbrush) or plaque buildup. Health conditions like "gingivitis, nasal inflammation, chronic sinusitis, and post-nasal drip (in other words things we'd never want to have) can also cause foul breath."[1]

New Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme is a breakthrough in fresh breath protection from Astring-O-sol as it combats morning breath with its clinically-proven time release anti-bacterial compound (chlorhexidine—say that 10 times, fast—in the morning) that effectively works throughout the night. The ultimate proof—gargle before bedtime and wake up with fresh, clean breath. It's like having no morning breath.

New Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme comes in a cool lemon lime flavor that gives a total blast of freshness.

Now that New Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme is here, you can still smell Super after waking up the next day—like the day after the Super Awards. Now that's extreme.

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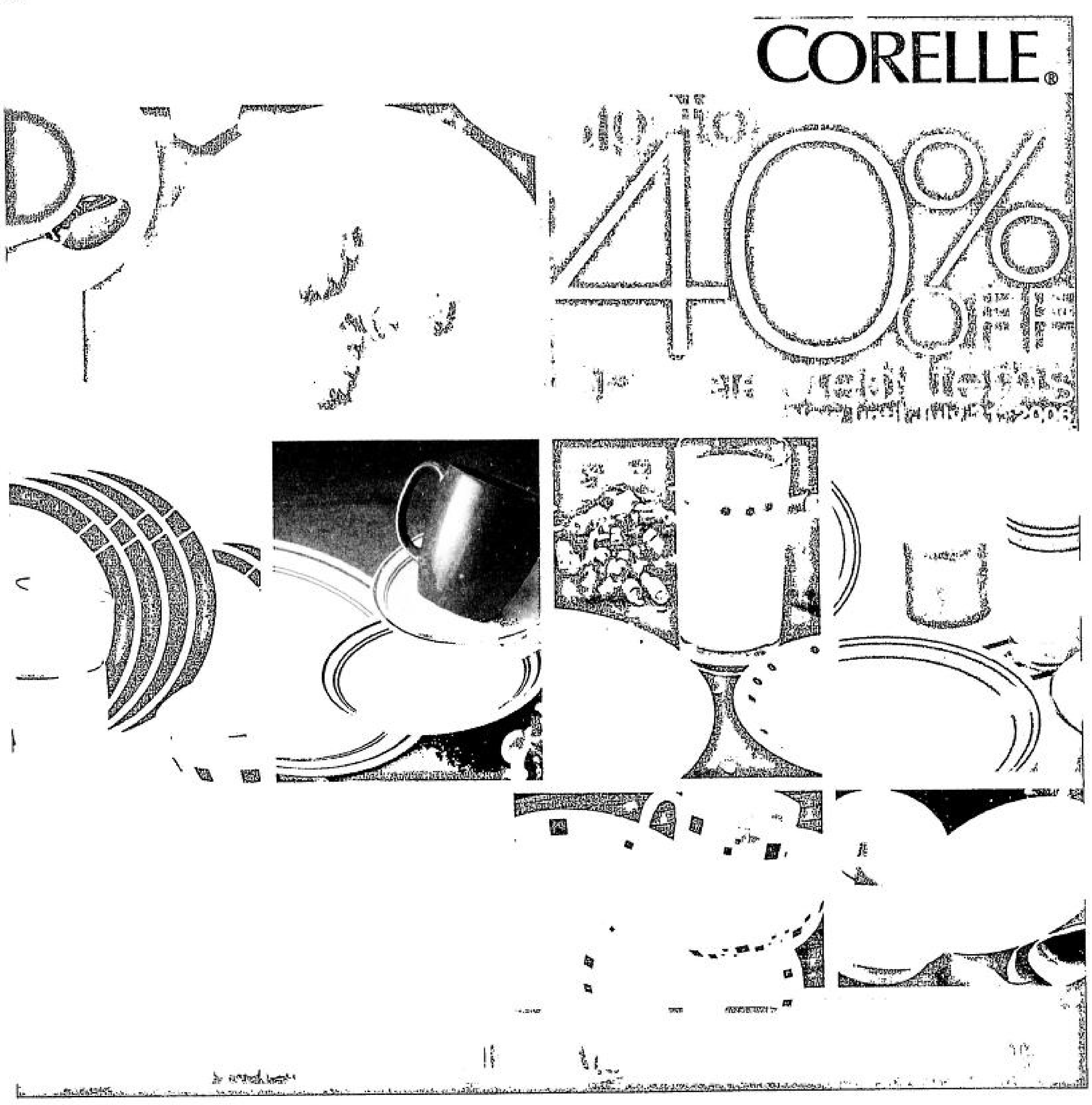

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Super 3

pop culture . ente

Super! threesome with Johnny, Keira and Orlando

Skip the parrot and the peg leg, let these interviews keep you in that pirate-y mood

HE MAY BE, DEPENDING ON your point of view, the best or worst pirate in history, but there's no doubt that he's also the most entertaining (and most fashionable). Yes, Johnny Depp is back for another turn as Captain Jack Sparrow in the soon-to-be-released Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, the second installment (of three) in the rollicking adventures of the dandy, rum-loving pirate and his unlikely allies,

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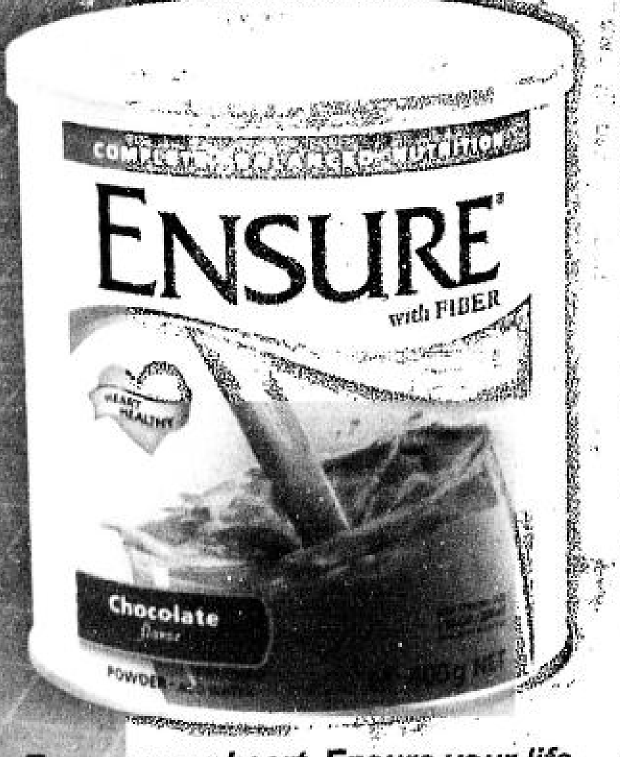

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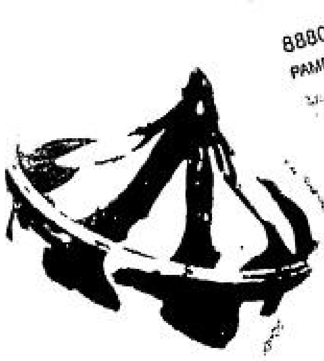

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Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights

Super! threesome with Johnny, Keira and Orlando

From page E1

the idealistic Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and feisty Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley).

Here are three Super! interviews with Johnny, Keira and Orlando, to keep you in that pirate-y mood.

Johnny Depp

There are still moments when Johnny Depp finds it hard to fully comprehend the phenomenal success of Pirates of the Caribbean.

"I wanted to play Captain Jack again because he's so much fun to play and there's so much more to explore," he says. "I'd keep going and if they want to do Pirates 4 and Pirates 5, I'm there. Why not?"

Depp promises that you'll see new layers of Captain Jack in the next two movies.

Super: Jack's a pirate. But does he live by any rules?

JD: I think Jack definitely has his own set of rules, his own code that he lives by and the proper, real pirates did in those days. They were very strict about the code. I think Jack has set parameters for himself.

Super: What kind of scrapes will Jack get into in Dead Man's Chest?

JD: Well, he certainly has something very specific on his mind which is outside financial gain. It's more to do with a spiritual journey, in a weird way, He's looking for something extremely unique.

Super: It's obviously a big budget film. How do you keep hold of the character with all distractions of film making at this level?

JD: This is how naïve I am. On the first film it seemed to me we were making quite an intimate little film because as far as I'm concerned you go in there, you get in the trenches, you're with your director and you're slugging it out and you're making things happen. And you're doing what you are meant to do within the context, within the structure of the scene. It didn't dawn on me how epic things were. In fact it didn't dawn on me until we were probably half way through shooting when I saw the first rough cut of the first trailer and I was suddenly completely shocked, like 'wow, this is enormous!' Now coming on to Dead Man's Chest and having a pretty good handle on the character, knowing him as well as I do, it's obviously so much larger than the first. The structure, the story, it's a lot more complicated to shoot. They've upped the stakes quite heavily during the second movie.

Super: Does it feel different, being on a Jerry Bruckheimer set?

JD: Well as I told you, on the first one, innocently it just felt very intimate to me and it got more and more grand as time went on. This one is totally utterly Jerry Bruckheimer—everything's in, the kitchen sink, everything. And it's done with incredible taste and he uses the best guys to do it and it's impressive. So yeah, working on a Jerry Bruckheimer production is a different animal altogether.

Super: Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom's careers have taken off since the first Pirates. They are both big stars now. Has that changed anything?

JD: No, I think it's the same people as far as I can tell. They still come in, work hard and are properly committed. Keira's as sweet as can be, Orlando's as sweet as can be. I'm really happy that we got everybody back and everybody's in relatively the same condition as when we started this thing.

Keira Knightley

If Keira Knightley sometimes feels that she's been on the high seas, filming Pirates of the Caribbean, for a long, long time, it's easy to understand. Because she has.

Twenty-one-year-old Keira, along with the all-star line up from the first, hugely successful Pirates film, The Curse of the Black Pearl, have reunited with director Gore Verbinski to make Pirates 2, Dead Man's Chest, out this summer, and Pirates 3, which we'll see next year, virtually back to back.

"It felt like the last two years had never happened and we've been working on Pirates the entire time," she notes. Not that she's complaining. "We have got these fantastic sets, it's pretty much exactly the same crew with a couple of additions, the same cast, same director, same writers, same producers obviously, so it really is like we never finished doing the first one and we have just continued."

Super: How is working on Pirates 2 and 3 compared to the first film?

KK: It has been really weird actually because I can't even remember where we started. I guess we started in February and it felt like the last two years had never happened and we have been working on Pirates of the Caribbean the entire time. (laughs) But it has been great. It's a long haul, as I said, we started in February, we had about a month and a half on hiatus and then we are shooting until February or March (2006), so it is a big one. I have never done anything as long which makes it different, but the guys are great and it is pretty much all the same people and it's nice, it's good fun.

Super: Do you enjoy the time you film in the Caribbean or do you prefer being here in LA?

KK: I prefer being here in LA. We go to some very beautiful places and we go to some not so beautiful places, I think you do end up getting island fever and especially if you are going to tourist-y islands. They are great for a couple of weeks and you go 'Oh look there's the beach, this is lovely.' And then you go 'OK, what else? I've done the beach, I've done the sea, I have read all my books, I can't do anything else!' But I'm enjoying being in LA—I am a city girl so I like cities.

Super: You must be pleased with the critical reaction to Pride and Prejudice because it's had some great reviews?

KK: Has it? Good. I haven't seen any of that. If I believed the good stuff, I would have to believe the bad stuff as well and neither of it is very helpful for me. But that's good, that's great to know. I like it. All the experiences that I have had so far have been absolutely amazing. And it is lovely to come back on to Pirates, with a film that is already established because there's so much kind of excitement around it. But equally it is great to do things that are really a complete risk and you don't know what the outcome is going to be.

Super: A lot has happened in your career since the first Pirates film.

KK: Yeah, I've got a bigger trailer! (laughs). That says a lot doesn't it.

Super: How do you choose a film?

KK: I don't know, it's just whatever catches my fancy. If it is a film I think I would want to see and then that's kind of a good way to judge it. And if you meet the director and you like them then that's even a better way to judge it. But it just depends. I don't pick it by genre, if I read a good comedy and I go 'oh yeah, I'd really like to be a part of that …' but equally it could be a drama. I don't really have a plan; it's just what jumps out at me.

Super: What's it like acting alongside Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom?

KK: It's amazing, I mean, they are very beautiful. (laughs) Yes it was very easy on the eyes. And they are really great as well, they are lovely and watching Johnny work, you know it's masterful really, it's taking an acting master class, so that's always enjoyable. And Orlando I have known for a very long time. We used to go up for things in London together so it's really nice you know to spend time with him as well. He's my mate, which is nice.

Orlando Bloom

When he was at drama school, Orlando Bloom never quite imagined himself in action adventure movies. As he notes with a smile, it's funny how things turn out.

Along with Johnny Depp as the lovable rogue Jack Sparrow and Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Swann, the governor's daughter who falls for Will, Orlando obviously, and understandably, holds the first Pirates movie in high esteem.

"Oh we had a fabulous time making it," he says. "Lovely people, fantastic locations and a great director. It was one of the best professional experiences I've ever had."

And so it's easy to understand why he was keen to repeat the experience in Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, and Pirates 3, which have been filmed, virtually, back to back.

"I really enjoy doing it," he says. "I get to work with Johnny and Gore Verbinski and all these great talents. It's amazing because it's a chance for me to continue to learn my craft from some more experienced actors."

Super: So how's it going, what is it like compared to working on the first one?

OB: It's really exciting, I have to say. You probably know that we had to sign up to do a second movie when we did the first movie and the idea of doing two and three back to back was something that came up and I thought 'This is great, family fun entertainment' And I really enjoy doing it, I get to work with, you know, Johnny and Gore Verbinski and all these great talents. It's amazing because it's a chance for me to continue to learn my craft from some more experienced actors.

Super: How much easier are the fight scenes for you now?

OB: It's like when you start learning dialogue. It gets easier the more dialogue you have the easier it comes to learn it. The body is a muscle and the more you do you get 'muscle' memory. There is basic parry routine that works for pretty much any sword fight and you vary it, depending on what sword you are using. But yeah, it has gotten a lot easier. I used to have to rehearse for weeks and weeks in advance but now I can have like three or four sessions with the stunt guys and I can pick it up much quicker which is a bonus.

Super: Is this the most exciting project you've worked on?

A: Well, I had the most ridiculous good fortune when I left drama school to work on a project like Rings that went into three movies. That was an incredible break out for me but Pirates really sealed the deal in terms of giving me opportunities to do movies like Kingdom of Heaven and Elizabethtown or this little movie I did called Haven. Pirates was doubly amazing because it came from the side, out of left field and when this script was going round town a lot of people just passed over it because it was like a Disney adventure ride. It was one of those scripts that nobody really jumped on and then we jumped on it and it was a really good script. It was exciting in that sense because it was like "Wow, who knew it would have that kind of cachet and success?"

Super: You have become such a public figure, are you still enjoying that or is it becoming a little intrusive?

OB: It's really interesting and amazing in the sense that I don't get out of my car and walk home and get swamped by people. It's funny because I try to keep a low profile as much as possible because that is kind of who I am and when I am at premiers or whatever then that's when people know you are going to be around and it creates that kind of excitement. It's like the circus coming to town. I have used this analogy before. People get wrapped up in it and I am always really grateful to the fans because like I said, I have had amazing opportunities and the studios that I have worked with have bankrolled some pretty big movies on the basis of the fact that I do have a great support system and a movie like Kingdom, I got a shot at, you know. It's funny to me because it makes over $200 million worldwide and it is still considered not to have done so well. But it is just that Hollywood has such high expectations. It's crazy.

Super: What do you do in your free time?

OB: Free time is sparse but I just keep it as normal as possible. I have dogs, I have a great family. I have good friends.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest is being shown in theaters nationwide.

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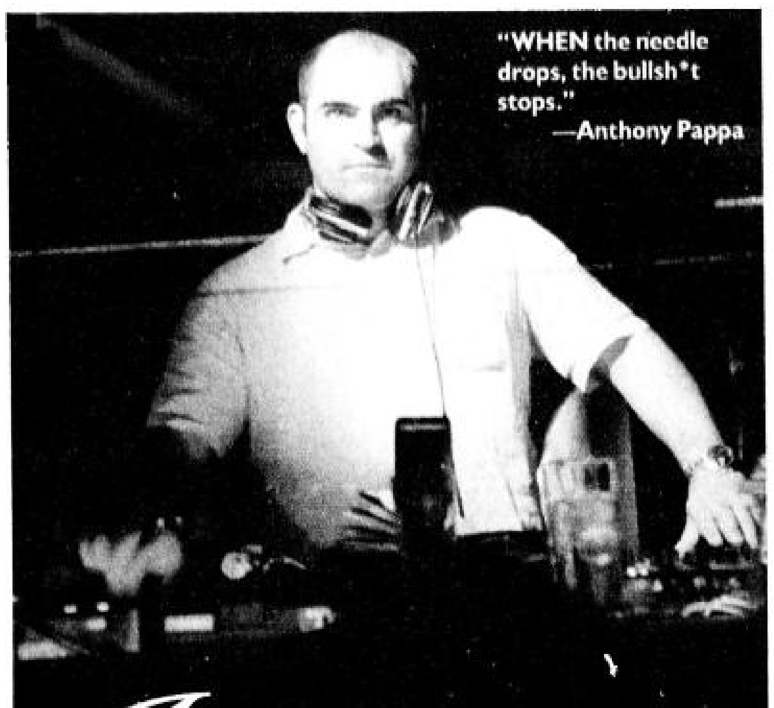

"WHEN the needle drops, the bullsh*t stops."
—Anthony Pappa

If Dad was a DJ

One of the world's best DJs is called Anthony Pappa, and we couldn't resist the pun

AUSSIE-BORN PRODUCER and DJ Anthony Papa has over 200 international gigs a year. We don't know how he does it—when he's not spinning music he's traveling—but we're thankful he does.

He's often considered one of the best DJs in the business by the kingpins of dance music. A few days ago, Manila got to see why. The usual suspects, Motorola, brought him here for a one-night engagement at the Embassy SuperClub.

Super Pappa!

Anthony's music is Super. But this guy is Super himself.

At 15, he won the Melbourne, then the Australian DMC Championships. A few years later, at 21, he moved to London to pursue DJing. It was a big move—not just because the UK's halfway around the world. In Australia he played to thousands; when he moved the UK he had to work his way up the ladder again—which he did.

Anthony established himself by playing a wide range of funky techmusic—from house to noncommercial trance. He produces on the side too.

Anthony has said in an interview with a DJ magazine, "When the needle drops, the bullshit stops. That's it, end of story, period." Oh yeah, you should've seen the Moto crowd at the Embassy SuperClub—there was nothing between his music and them.

Super got to sit down with Anthony, and he talked about the stress of traveling. He left for Hong Kong just hours after his gig here—he travels enough to turn back time Superman-style.

But there's nothing he'd rather do than DJ, he says. We're glad he never tires of spreading his Super stuff.

Pepe Diokno

PAPPA AND PEPE. DJ Anthony Pappa and Pepe Diokno

SCRUFF AND BUN. Michelle Pamintuan loves Eric Cua

GP DRIVER. Chicho Suarez and GP Reyes

LET'S MAKEUP. Ianne Evangelista and Xeng Zulueta

MOTOROLA Philippines head Patrick Aronson, Gabby Katigbak and Moto marketing Mari Litonjua

TIM MO TO. Ladies and gents, this is Tim Yap

MMMM. Tina Tinio loves her Moto

INSTEAD of the World Cup finals, JM Rodriguez is here

Information source: ResidentAdvisor.net

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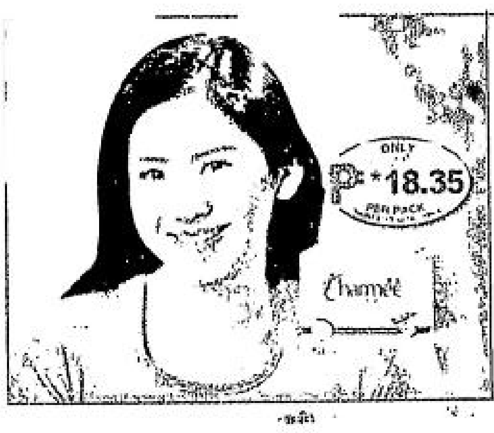

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Yoga to go

YOGA ADVOCATES RAYA MAnanquil and Corey Wills now offer yoga classes in your home or office and at your own convenience with a service they call MYOGA (My Time. My Place. My Yoga).

With regular practice, yoga offers greater strength, flexibility, balance, increased energy, enhanced memory and concentration, better posture, a stronger immune system and reduced stress.

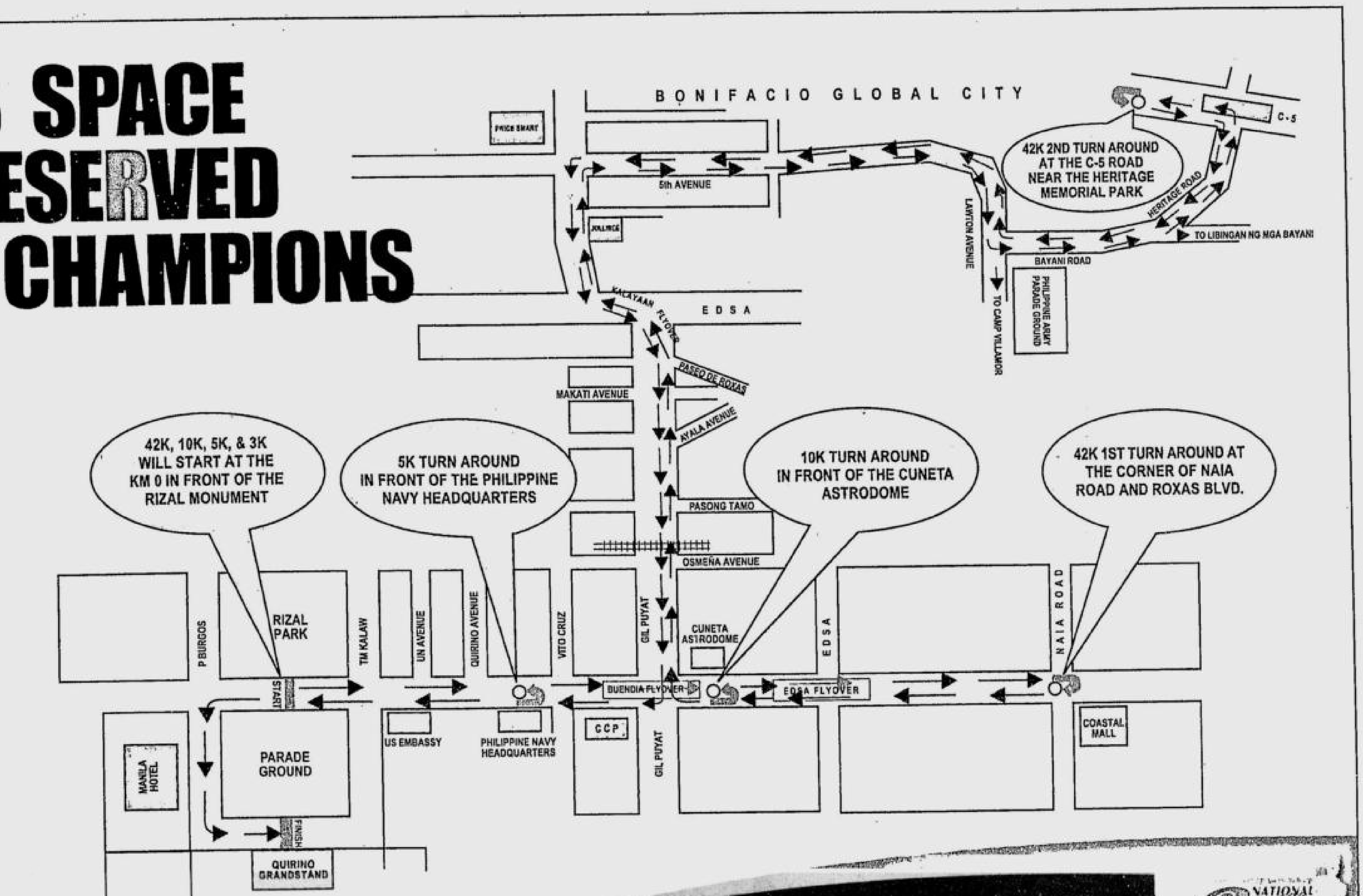
Corey was introduced to Hatha Yoga at age 13 in his home in Australia under the guidance of his mother and father who studied Yoga in India before he was born.

Since then Corey has studied with senior Iyengar and Ashtanga teachers in the lower Himalayas and continues to train in Australia under senior Iyengar Yoga teacher John Leebold. Corey was certified to teach at the Integral Yoga Institute at Satchidananda Ashram in Yogaville, Virginia USA after completing 270 hours.

Raya started her yogic path with dhyana or meditation when she was in college, and her Hatha Yoga asana practice soon followed. She also took the teacher training at the Integral Yoga Institute at Satchidananda Ashram in Yogaville, Virginia and became the first Filipino certified as an Integral Yoga Instructor. She still trains with senior Iyengar teacher John Leebold in the Western Australia School of Yoga and practices with Justin Herold of the Iyengar Yoga School of Bangkok.

Call or text 09179777835 or e-mail myoga8@yahoo.com.

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR CHAMPIONS


BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
PRICE SMART
5th AVENUE
C-5
42K 2ND TURN AROUND AT THE C-5 ROAD NEAR THE HERITAGE MEMORIAL PARK
HERITAGE ROAD
LAWTON AVENUE
TO LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI
BAYANI ROAD
TO CAMP VILLAMOR
PHILIPPINE ARMY PARADE GROUND
KALAYAAN FLYOVER
EDSA
PASEO DE ROXAS
MAKATI AVENUE
AYALA AVENUE
42K, 10K, 5K, & 3K WILL START AT THE KM 0 IN FRONT OF THE RIZAL MONUMENT
5K TURN AROUND IN FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY HEADQUARTERS
10K TURN AROUND IN FRONT OF THE CUNETA ASTRODOME
42K 1ST TURN AROUND AT THE CORNER OF NAIA ROAD AND ROXAS BLVD.
PASONG TAMO
OSMEÑA AVENUE
P BURGOS
RIZAL PARK
TM KALAW
UN AVENUE
QUIRINO AVENUE
VITO CRUZ
GIL PUYAT
CUNETA ASTRODOME
EDSA
NAIA ROAD
START
BUENDIA FLYOVER
EDSA FLYOVER
MANILA HOTEL
PARADE GROUND
US EMBASSY
PHILIPPINE NAVY HEADQUARTERS
CCP
GIL PUYAT
COASTAL MALL
FINISH
QUIRINO GRANDSTAND

On July 16, 2006, from 4:30 AM to 10 AM, runners from all over Metro Manila will take the shaded route and defy pain, rain, fatigue, and heat in order to become champions in the 30th National MILO Marathon Elimination Race. Motorists are advised to avoid driving on these streets. Unless you want to park your car, stand by the sides, and cheer them on.

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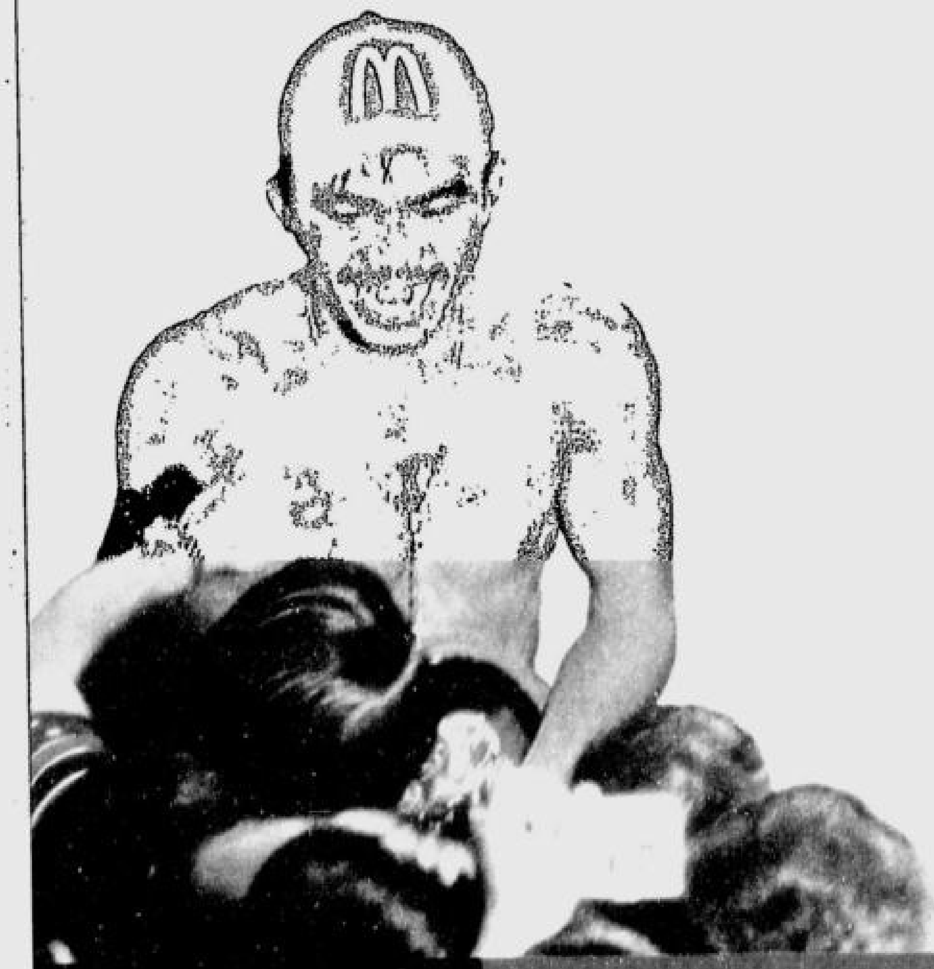
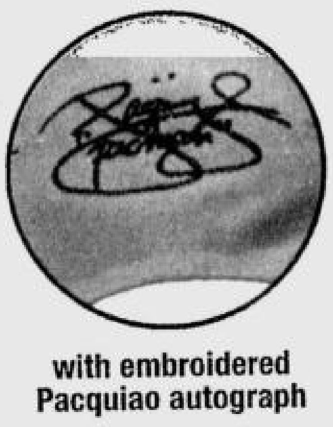


Team Pacquiao



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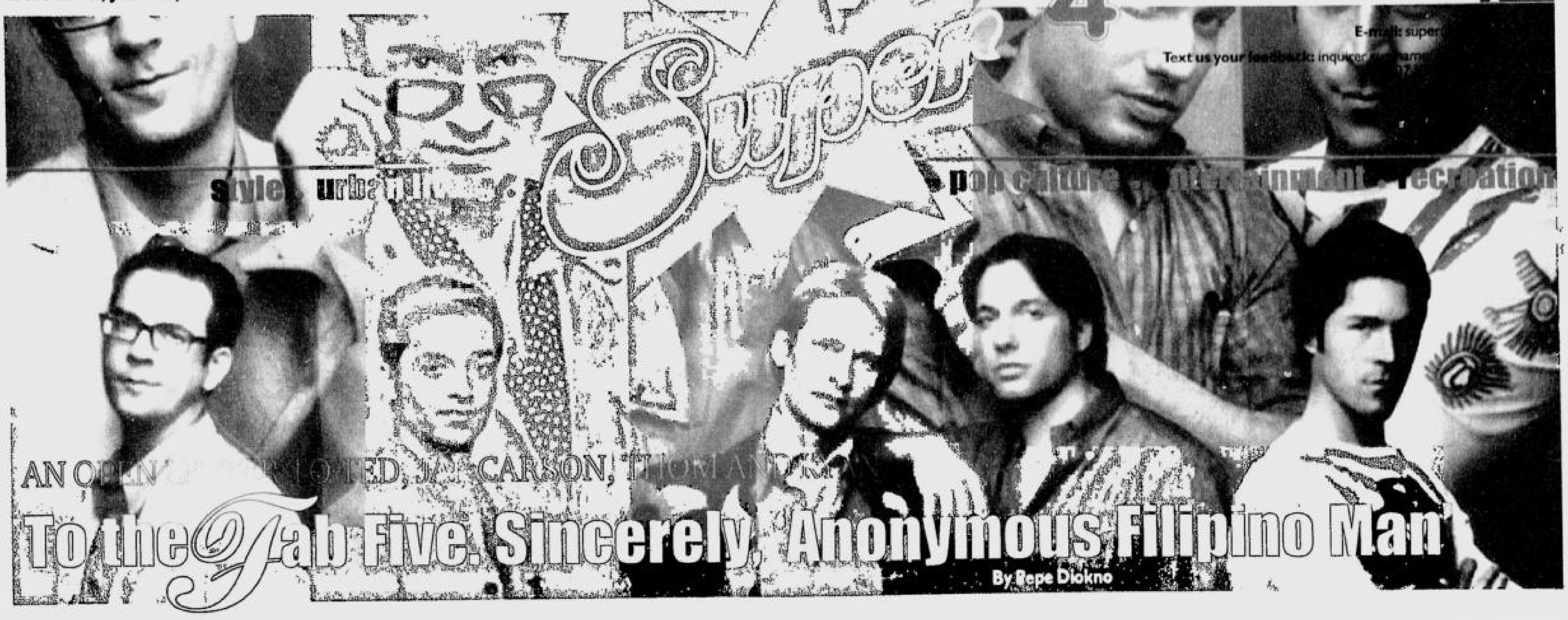

AN OPEN LETTER TO TED, JAI, CARSON, THOM AND KYAN

To the Fab Five. Sincerely, Anonymous Filipino Man

By Pepe Diokno

DEAR FAB FIVE,

Hey, welcome to the Philippines. Or, the two of you, Kyan and Thom, welcome back.

I'd like to think the five of you are here for some philanthropic spree—you know, like the WWE's Mick Foley. We have children who need schools, children who need clothes. We also have an abundance of trees and mountains that need saving.

Ok, no. I'm not asking you to do what the government should be doing. (I'm not asking you to leave. Stay here forever, in fact. This local station called ABS-CBN spends millions acquiring TV show franchises. I mean, millions of dollars! Cash in on them before "America's Got Talent" does.) There are pressing issues above starving children and illiteracy.

Filipino-style style

Like, um, people who wear their collars up. And uh, people who buy these flip-flops just because they're *that* brand of flip-flops.

Do you know how there are Asians in the States who like to dress hip-hop like? We have them here, too. The thing is they think they rule this place, because they think they're black? I dunno.

For some reason, I think Filipinos are inseparable from their jeans. But I've seen people wear jeans to the beach. And I swear I see people at the gym wearing jeans. On the treadmill.

There's a look you'll see every day — it's the "queer office worker look." It's a collared shirt (often buttoned up) on a shirt (often black) with black pants. You'll see them out like this even at temperatures above 37 degrees Celsius. I'm not into fashion or anything, but this makes me run away in fear. They must have a "heat resistance" super power.

A stitch pitch

This is what I'm asking: You're doing meet-and-greets, right? How bout a meet-greet-and-critique? Come on, it'll be fun. And look, instead of thinking of personalized messages, you just put your rating of them (on a scale of one to ten)!

Or, you know, you can give everyone who lines up to see you a *joodjing*. You'll do that, right? No. Oh. Okay.

Gift certificates? No? Okay.

I'm kidding.

I hope I didn't seem like I was launching a tirade against my fellowmen. It was a tirade - but it was well-meaning. I promise. (Evil smile.)

Style own, style off

See, I don't believe in a "Filipino" style — you can't put a box around nationalities. But I think all countries should have styles that emanate from them—fashion that comes from an urge to express, not from an urge to *look like* someone.

A lot of Filipinos don't have that. It's always been about looking like a certain type. Now, a lot of us follow anything we see on foreign programming. If people are gonna follow foreign fads, they might as well get them from you.

'Cause you five have always been about personal style and empowerment. (I swear I don't mean to kiss ass.)

Anyway. the whole country loves it that you're here. The last gay group we had over was the Village People. You guys are a huge upgrade.

I'm not afraid to say it—I know a bunch of other straight guys who are going to go Star Wars on you and camp outside the Ayala Malls for days.

Hey, thanks for reading. Come back whenever you want—I'm telling you, ABS-CBN is a goldmine.

Sincerely,
Anonymous Filipino Man

Meet and-greet the Fab 5 on July 20 from 7 to 8 p.m. at Greenbelt, July 21 at 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Glorietta, and on July 22 at 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Alabang Town Center. And I'm sure you all already watch "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" on ETC, Mondays at 9 p.m.

FROM left: Kyan Douglas, Thom Filicia, Carson Kressley, Ted Allen and Jai Rodriguez

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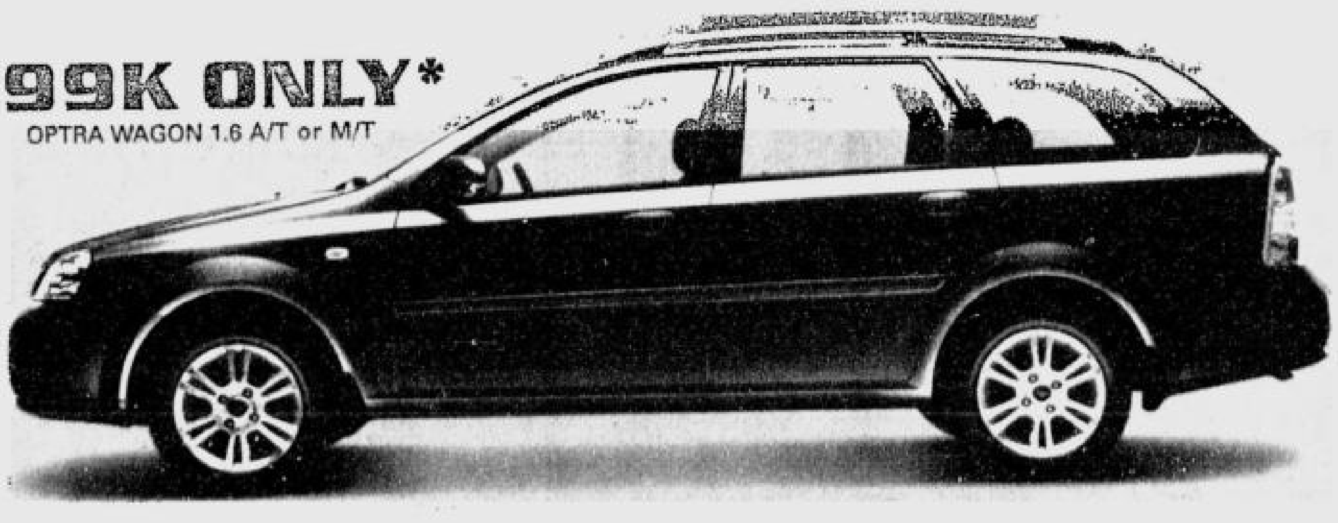

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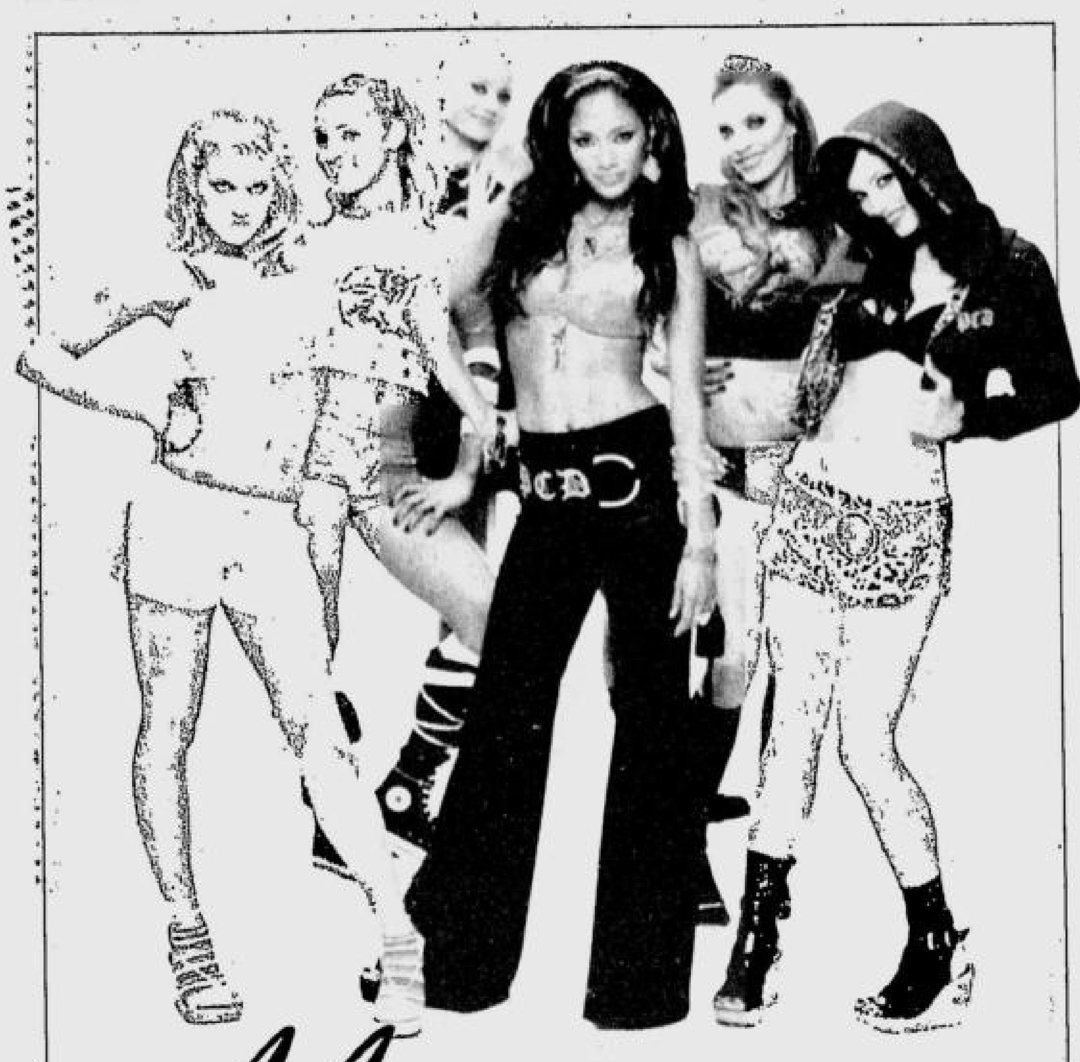

Meee-ow!

The Pussycat Dolls are getting ready to invade Manila. Purrr purrr ...

IF YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE who wished your girlfriend was hot like them, then you're in for a treat.

The Pussycat Dolls are about to invade Manila.

The group was formed in the garage-turned-dance studio of actress Christina Applegate. After years of headlining Thursday nights at the famous Viper Room, owned by Johnny Depp, the Dolls had famous friends that have volunteered to dance and sing with them, giving the group the added notoriety and true celebrity pedigree.

Friends like Christina Applegate, Gwen Stefani, Christina Aguilera, Carmen Electra, Brittany Murphy, Charlize Theron, Paris Hilton and Pamela Anderson.

The Pussycat Dolls have undergone many line-up changes over the years but the six beautiful ladies that comprise the group today is the group's strongest line up yet. The current dolls are Jessica Sutta, one-time captain of the Miami Heat dance troupe; Carmit Bachar, the sultry "La Vida Loca" girl on Ricky Martin's world tour; two of Hollywood's most talented young dancers, Ashley Roberts and Kimberly Wyatt; the talented singer they found in an open audition, Melody Thornton; and Nicole Scherzinger, a Hawaii-born half-Filipino, half-Russian beauty who scored a Top 10 album and single with her former girl group, Eden's Crush.

The Pussycat Dolls Live in Manila marks the first time the group will be here to perform for their many Filipino fans, and Nicole herself is really psyched with her upcoming visit, saying she'd be thrilled to come over and "be around people that kinda look like me."

The Pussycat Dolls' will be joined by three new talents as front acts for the show, all of whom have Filipino blood running in their veins—talented R&B singer Sway Penala who everyone will remember from American Idol Season 4; Mikey Bustos, a finalist in the Canadian Idol 2003 edition and Honoré, a songwriter/singer/producer of Creole and Filipino descent.

Expect The Pussycat Dolls to rock Araneta Coliseum on July 28 as they perform their hit singles "Don't Cha," "Stick wit U" and "Beep."

For tickets, call Ticketnet at 911 5555. Ticket prices are P3,750++, P3,200++, P2,800++, P1,850++, P850++ and P500++.

At, Rem and Fernan
Have you Seen Thi

THREE MEN. A COMMON PASSION FOR photography. One big exhibit. Meet the men behind the photographs of Seen This?, a photo exhibit that runs at The Crucible Gallery this month.

(FROM left) At Maculangan, Rem Zamora and Fernando Escora, the men behind the photo[illegible]

At Maculangan

At Maculangan was trained as a painter at the University of Santo Tomas but newer and less traditional forms of expression have always appealed to him. His art puts focus on the human form and spirit. He was introduced to photography in 1987 after he took up cinematography at Mowelfund Film Institute. His photographs have been exhibited locally and internationally. In 2004, he participated in two international exhibitions. Seni Singapore: Art and the Contemporary at the Singapore Art Museum (where he showcased portraits of interracial families from his project Chemistry Students) and Artspaces: A survey of artists who work with alternative spaces, an exhibition in New Zealand (where he presented postcards of different "Men in Uniform" in the Philippines).

Since he is a Filipino who lived in Italy for 15 years, he also became interested in the idea of promoting "cultural exchange" between the Philippines and Italy through photography.

In Manila, he had a solo exhibition entitled, "What the Hell is Lomo?," presenting 300 images of Italian life. In Italy, he had a solo exhibition entitled "Est Est" showing Filipino life in 250 snapshots. Both exhibitions were shot using a Lomo camera. Together with his wife—Katya Guerrero, they established the Lomographic Society in the Philippines.

Rem Zamora

Rem Zamora, 25, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and accountancy from the University of the Philippines in 2001. After passing the CPA board, he soon began his career as an accountant at the prestigious firm Sycip, Gorre and Velayo. But after less than a year, he decided to brave the uncertain, overworked, and underpaid world of Philippine photojournalism.

His love for photojournalism stemmed from his work with the illustrious student publication The Philippine Collegian. In 2003, he started as a photo correspondent of the Manila Times and later moved to the Philippine Daily Inquirer in 2004. His photos have graced numerous front pages of PDI. His photograph of a child rescued after surviving eleven days under a collapsed building in Infanta, Quezon during

PHOTOS by Rem Zamora

INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
[illegible]

Philippine Idol
Panoorin: World-class na galing ng Pinoy sa pag-awit.
The phenomenon begins July 29, Saturday, 8 PM.
PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!
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ClickTheCity.com
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho	MVP Cup						Wow Mali		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		ABCinema		Famas Awards Night			
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks		Let's Go	Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX		Aalog alog	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Lost (Season II)		Lost (Season II)		AXN Shakedown		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter		Max Exposure (Season II)		Lost (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Cow & Chicken/[illegible]/Camp Lazlo		The Simpsons		Batman Beyond [illegible] Ghostly Scene		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy (8:45PM)	The Simpsons	The Batman	Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Gundam Seed		Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinemax		Devil Winds (3:05 PM)			Killing Time (4:35 PM)			The Prosecutors (6:05 PM)			[illegible] (7:35 PM)			S.W.A.T				Cerberus (10:55PM)	
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Global Office	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	World News	Global Office	CNN Presents	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Mastermind	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Law & Order	Prison Break	Bones	Prison Break	Vegas CSU	E-Ring	Stir Of Echoes			
Discovery Channel				Altered Statesmen		Power Zone				Discovery Encore		On The Run		I Shouldn't Be Alive		A Haunting		Unsolved History	
Disney Channel	Lizzie McGuire/Art Attack/[illegible] Buddy	Totally Spies Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch/Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Martin Mystery/That's So Raven	Buzz On Maggie/Lilo & Stitch/Emperor's New Groove	Phil Of The Future/Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven/Emperor's New School	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel			Watersports Programming Hot Water		Tour De France 2006	LPGA Golf Jamie Farr Owens Corning 2nd rd.				Germany Tonight						Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel	
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C 3		Beach Girls		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses 7		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Blowout 2		Inside the Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho				Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)		Returning Lily (4:05 PM)			Monster Makers (5:40 PM)				[illegible] Date (7:20 PM)			Earthsea					
HBO			Defending Your Life				After The Sunset				Duma (7:20 PM)			The Interpreter				Now On The Big [illegible] (11:05PM)	Carnivale 21: Lincoln Highway, UT
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Bucky the Incredible Kid	Jester The Adventurer	Musumet	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV [illegible]	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations [illegible]	Auto Review	Gotomo		[illegible] Kong Jackpot		Global Family Songs		Japan Video Topics/Arms	Barzal	Brag		Pinoy Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Evolver	Filter	Bottomline		Raw				Distraction	Merge	Last Comic Standing		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine [illegible]	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America				Style Star	I Do Diaries		El Extra: High Price Of Fame	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Live & What A Weekend X Day Makes			2006 June Awards		Cribs	My Own	Laguna Beach	8th & Ocean	MTV Live The Dawn		MTV Live Konne in Spain	MTV Hits	Brand New	MTV Hits	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandanto	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic				Predator Week: [illegible]															
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		[illegible]		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice-Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		[illegible] Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Euromaxx	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Report Weekend Edition	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Tribe	Quadriga	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	[illegible]		Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Net 25 Report Weekend Edition	DW-TV Journal Weekend Edition	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh/Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch	Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	[illegible] Kid's Choice Awards	SpongeBob SquarePants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	Bullet
PBO			[illegible]				[illegible]				Shindig 2				Bakit May Kahapon Pa				
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Ayitt Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Byaheng Langit	Ride, Eat, Travel	Man & Machine		[illegible] (Tulfo Brothers)		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				[illegible]	
SBN 21								Barangay [illegible]		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		Shepard's Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			GWS 28-2006	GWS 28-2006	Boxing Greatest Classics			WNBA Action	Phil Mountain Bike Tour	2006 JONES CUP				[illegible]					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus		FIFA World Cup [illegible] Battle for 3rd						World Poker Tour Hollywood Home				Ultimate Fighting Championship				Clyde Western Open Highlights		John Daly Classic Day 2	
Star Movies		[illegible] (4:25 PM)			National Treasure					King Arthur (6:55 PM)				Elvis Has Left The Building			Enemy Of The State		
Star World		Rockstar		Miami Vice		Goals 2006 Fifa World Cup		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Life As We Know It		TNA Xplosion		World's Most [illegible]		Enterprise		Road Trip	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Survivor Panama: Exile Island		Wickedly Perfect (7:20PM)	7th Heaven (8:10 PM)			Studio 23 Presents				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

do want to know: s?

FELLOW DREAMERS! HERE'S THE SCHEDULE FOR UNMASKED

THE FIRST PHILIPPINE GRAPHIC/ Fiction Awards brought to you by the lifelong partnership of Neil Gaiman and Fully Booked

10 a.m.: Gates to the exhibit open

3 p.m.-4 p.m.: Artists Unmasked

Q&A Forum with local comics artists:

Alfredo Alcala Jr.

Gerry Alanguilan

Ace Mansala Balacio

Wilson Tortosa

4:15 p.m.-5 p.m.: Pieces of Prose

A reading of excerpts from the best fiction entries featuring the voices of:

Dean Alfar, eight-time Palanca Award winner and renowned playwright

Aia de Leon, lead singer and guitarist of Imago

Ramona Diaz, Sundance Award-winning filmmaker of "Imelda"

Karen Kunawicz, writer, editor, "LOST" fanatic and lifelong soulmate of Johnny Depp

Iya Yotoko, host of Digital Tour

Gino de la Paz, Super! columnist, Preview lifestyle editor at large

Wawi Navarozza, lead singer of The Late Isabel

5:15 p.m.-6 p.m.: Drawn Live

Real time, on-the-spot comics creation and tutorials by Wilson Tortosa

6:30 p.m.-7 p.m.: Outer Hope performance

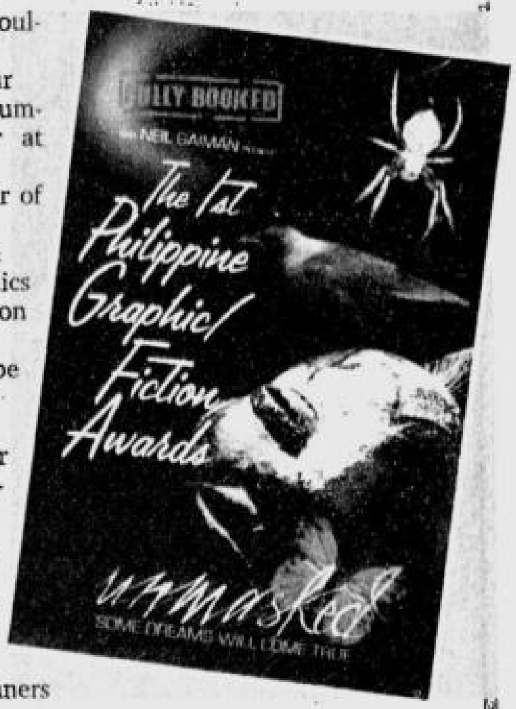
Awarding Ceremonies

7:15 p.m.: Opening number by Pinikpikan and fire performance by Planet Zips

8 p.m.: Awarding of the winners of the prose category

8:30 p.m.: Awarding of the People's Choice Awards and the Most Creative Mask

9 p.m.: Awarding of the winners of the comics category


FULLY BOOKED
NEIL GAIMAN
The 1st Philippine Graphic/ Fiction Awards
unmasked
SOME DREAMS WILL COME TRUE

a heavy typhoon earned him Best News Photo for 2005 at the Louie R. Prieto Awards, which aims to recognize the works of reporters and photographers working for PDI.

Zamora made his broadsheet and country proud when he won the Gold Prize for the General News Category in the first Asian Photo Contest last June. His photo of Guinsaugon children greeting US soldiers during a rescue operation bested 20,000 entries from more than 500 photographers all over the world.

Today, he continues to cover news events for the INQUIRER and hopes to continuously experience guidance from the senior photojournalists he works with everyday. He shuttles every now and then between Manila and his hometown Cavite to visit his family and nine dogs.

Fernando Escora

Fernando Escora received his Bachelor in Fine Arts Degree Major in Painting from the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 1999. He has been an active artist for almost ten years now and has done a series of one-person exhibits and group shows here and abroad.

In 1995, he was an art teacher at the Philippine High School for the Arts, a workshop teacher on book illustration in 2002 and of basic drawing in 2003 at the Ayala Museum.

He is also responsible for the illustrations of the children's book by the former Miss Australia Michelle Van Eimeren entitled "Butterfly" which was launched in 2001. He sometimes illustrates for local magazine.

His recent exhibit in Alliance Francaise last February entitled "Naked Series" featured his works of charcoal, ink wash and acrylic on each piece.

For this group exhibit, he chose to focus on still life, common images, landmarks and space in the Philippines.

The exhibit runs until July 23 at The Crucible Gallery, 4th 4th Floor Building B of SM Megamall. For inquiries, call 635-6061.

Get a Super! job!

DID YOU JUST GET OUT OF SCHOOL AND ARE you ready to take the plunge into the working world? Do you find yourself twiddling your thumbs in the office (or playing solitaire or chatting), waiting for 5 p.m. so you can make your quick getaway? Do you feel that your potential isn't being maximized in your company? Are you stuck with a dead-end job?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, there's no doubt about it—you need a new job.

Whether you're looking for a career change or a job jumpstart, head over the INQUIRER Job Market Employment Expo from July 17 to 19 at the Glorietta Activity Center.

The job fair, which is brought to you by The Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network, brings together over a hundred participating companies all waiting for their job vacancies to be filled by qualified applicants—that means you.

Update your resume, put on your nicest clothes, be your Super! self and get ready to shine at on-the-spot screenings.

Go ahead, get a job!

INQUIRER Job Market Employment Expo 2006 is also brought to you by Jobmarket Online, QTV, DZBB, LSFM, MTV, Centrex, Glorietta, Ayala Malls, Figaro Coffee Company, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3. To register, check out the INQUIRER Job Market or visit www.jobmarketonline.com. Job Market is the INQUIRER's recruitment section published every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Got music?

Get ready, music lovers. Eastwood and Super are tying up for a Super Music Festival

August will be a fun month for music fans. Super and Eastwood will be holding a month-long music festival that would feature some of the country's top talents.

Continue reading Super for more info.

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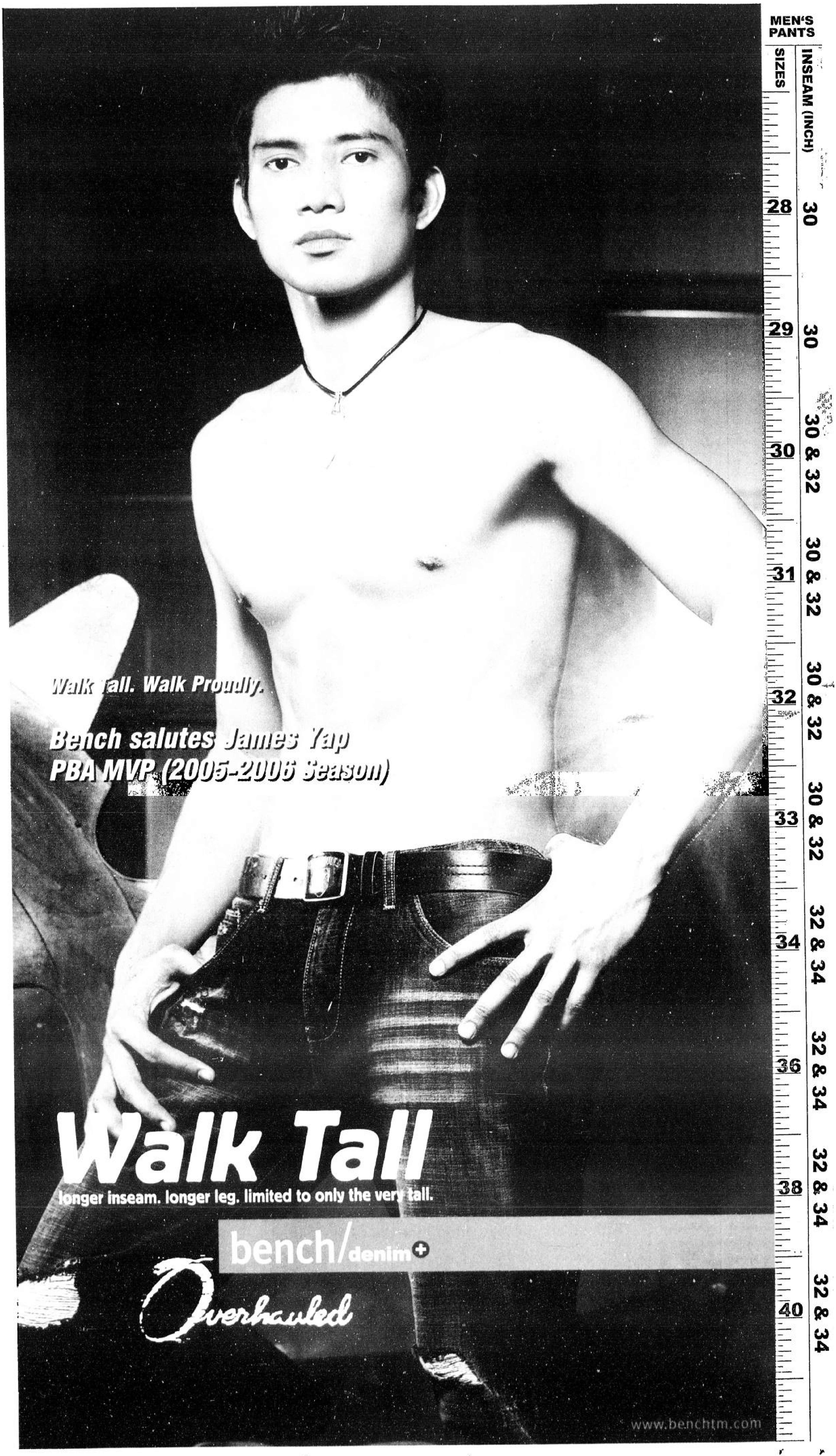
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Overhauled
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MEN'S PANTS

SIZES	INSEAM (INCH)
28	30
29	30
30	30 & 32
31	30 & 32
32	30 & 32
33	30 & 32
34	32 & 34
36	32 & 34
38	32 & 34
40	32 & 34

Super 5

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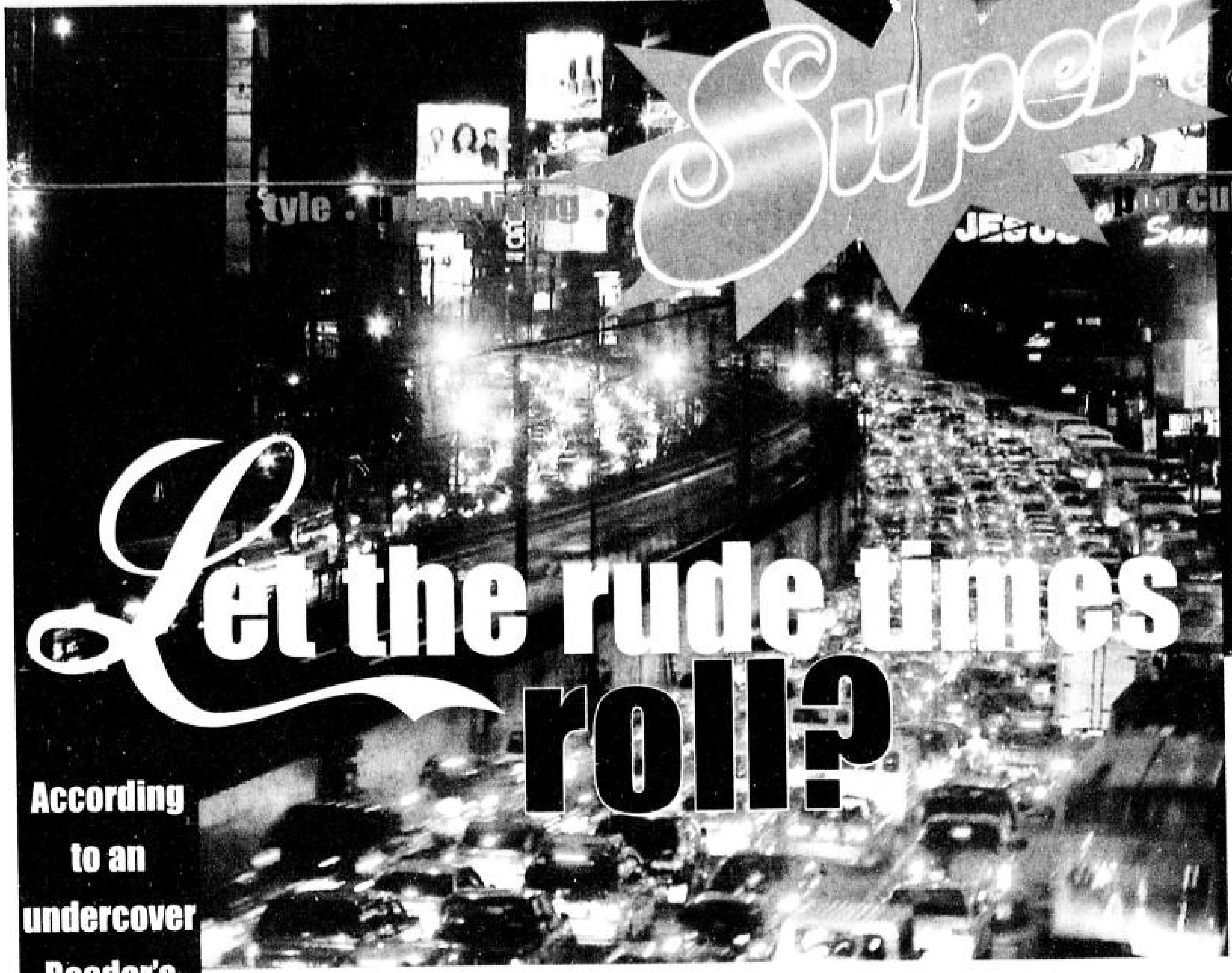


Let the rude times roll?

According to an undercover Reader's Digest global test, common courtesy is apparently nonexistent in Manila. Hmmm...

Age against the machine

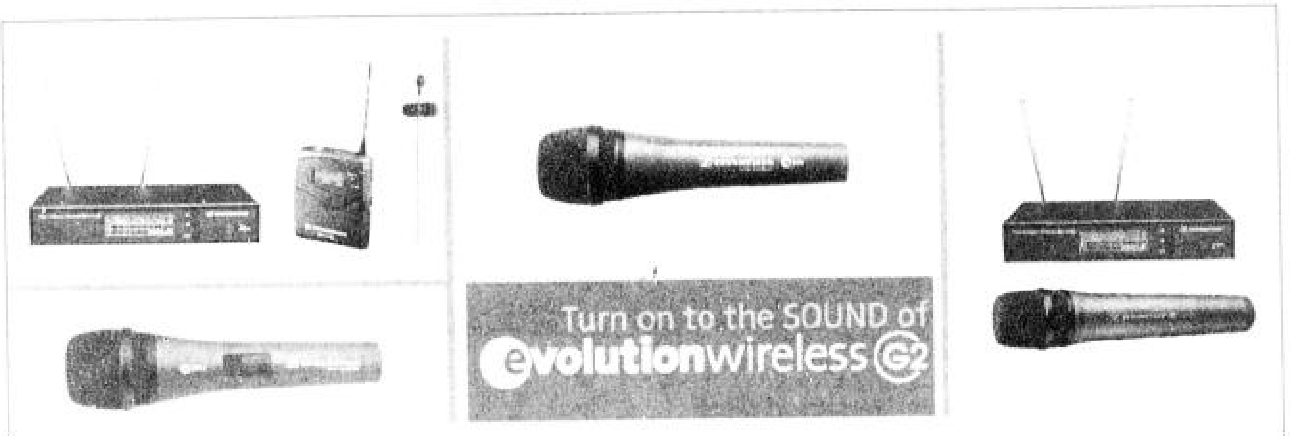
Gino de la Paz

IT WAS SOMEHOW meant to happen.

I stood in line at a bookstore in Megamall, waiting to finally pay for a hefty hardcover I'd been clutching. I expected to check out in a jiffy but I didn't, which left me slightly unhinged. See, instead of punching up some numbers on the register and bagging my purchases as usual, the cashiers—or the two ladies role-playing them—moved very slowly and cheerlessly, banging the books on the counter when they weren't busy texting on their cell phones. It was definitely the epitome of customer service... in hell. (I won't name names, but the place rhymes with Flowerbooks. I'm never shopping there again. Boo.)

As I thanked the cashiers and

LET THE RUDE/ G3



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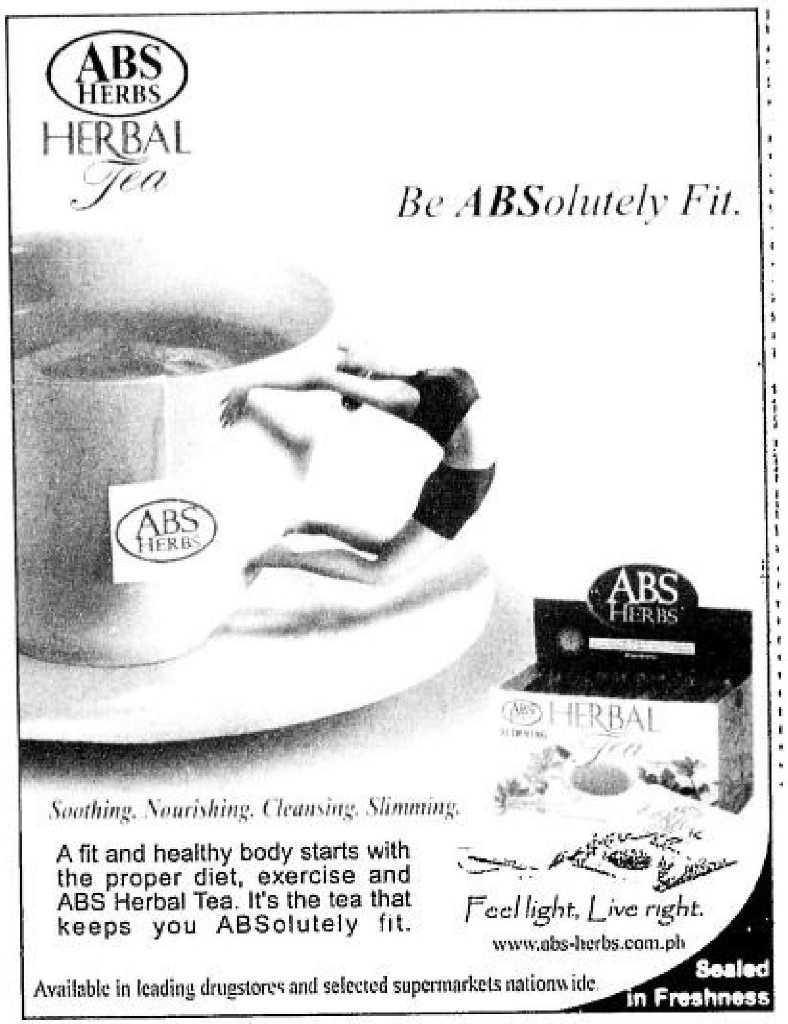

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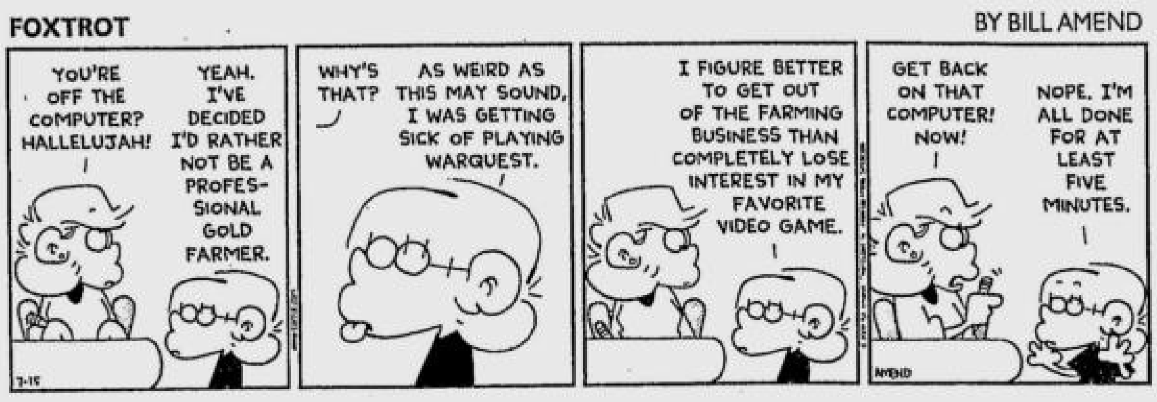
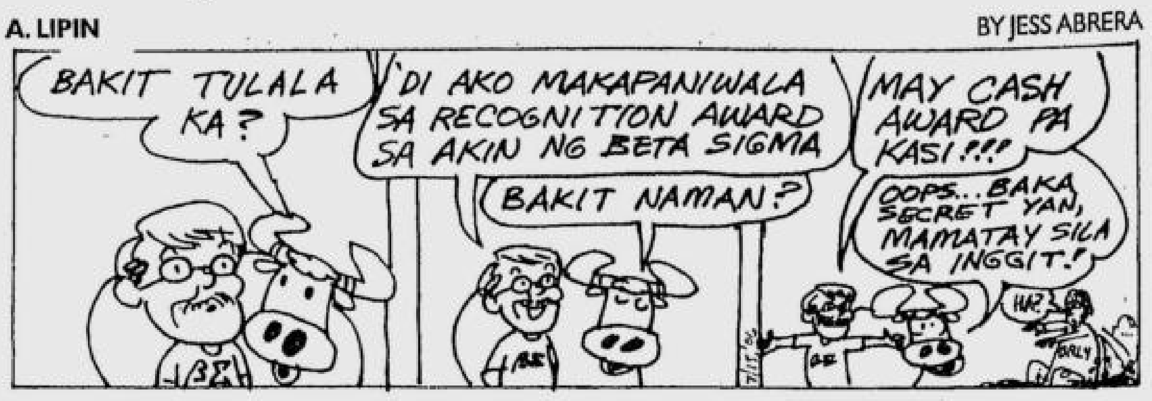
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE OFF THE COMPUTER? HALLELUJAH!
YEAH. I'VE DECIDED I'D RATHER NOT BE A PROFESSIONAL GOLD FARMER.
WHY'S THAT?
AS WEIRD AS THIS MAY SOUND, I WAS GETTING SICK OF PLAYING WARQUEST.
I FIGURE BETTER TO GET OUT OF THE FARMING BUSINESS THAN COMPLETELY LOSE INTEREST IN MY FAVORITE VIDEO GAME.
GET BACK ON THAT COMPUTER! NOW!
NOPE. I'M ALL DONE FOR AT LEAST FIVE MINUTES.

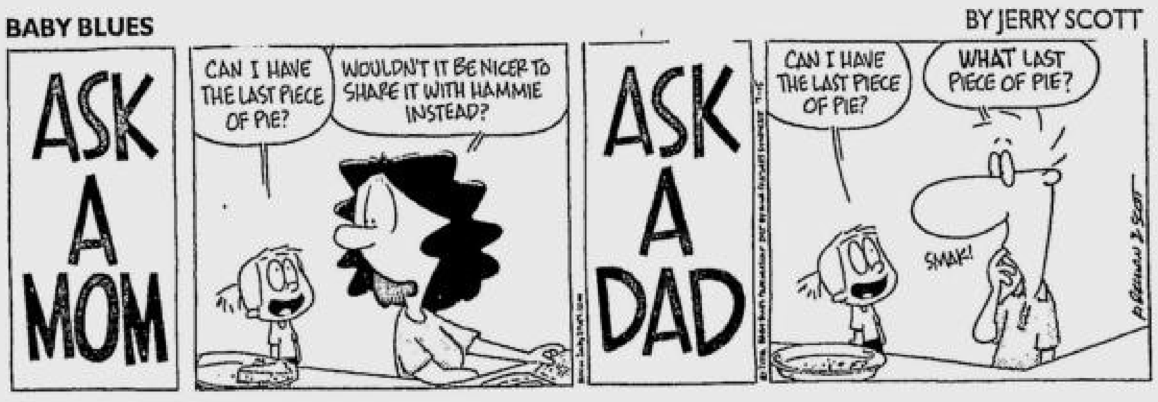
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT TULALA KA?
'DI AKO MAKAPANIWALA SA RECOGNITION AWARD SA AKIN NG BETA SIGMA
BAKIT NAMAN?
MAY CASH AWARD PA KASI!?!!
OOPS... BAKA SECRET YAN, MAMATAY SILA SA INGGIT.!
HA?

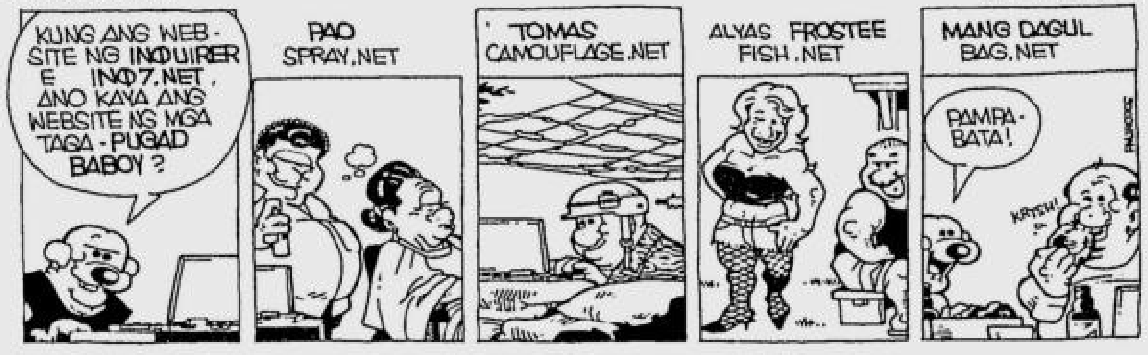
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ASK A MOM
CAN I HAVE THE LAST PIECE OF PIE?
WOULDN'T IT BE NICER TO SHARE IT WITH HAMMIE INSTEAD?
ASK A DAD
CAN I HAVE THE LAST PIECE OF PIE?
WHAT LAST PIECE OF PIE?
SMAK!

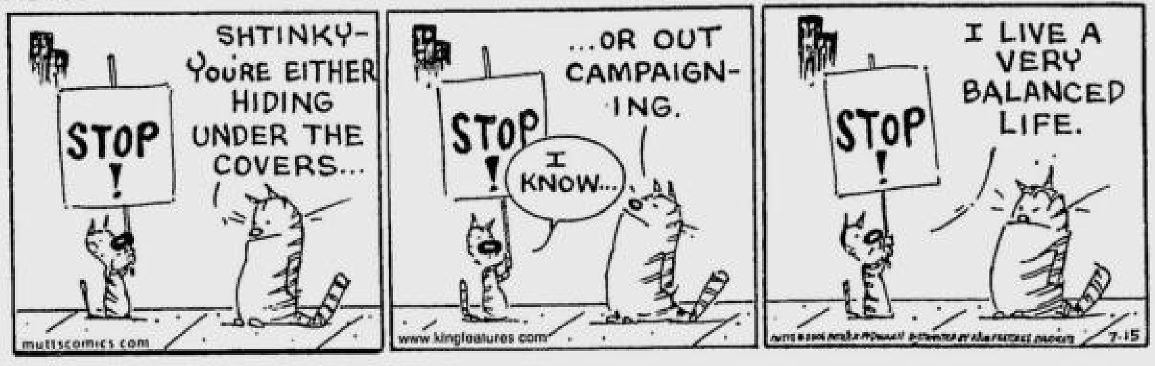
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUNG ANG WEB-SITE NG INQUIRER E INQ7.NET, ANO KAYA ANG WEBSITE NG MGA TAGA-PUGAD BABOY?
PAO SPRAY.NET
TOMAS CAMOUFLAGE.NET
ALYAS FROSTEE FISH.NET
MANG DAGUL BAG.NET
PAMPA-BATA!
KRTSH!

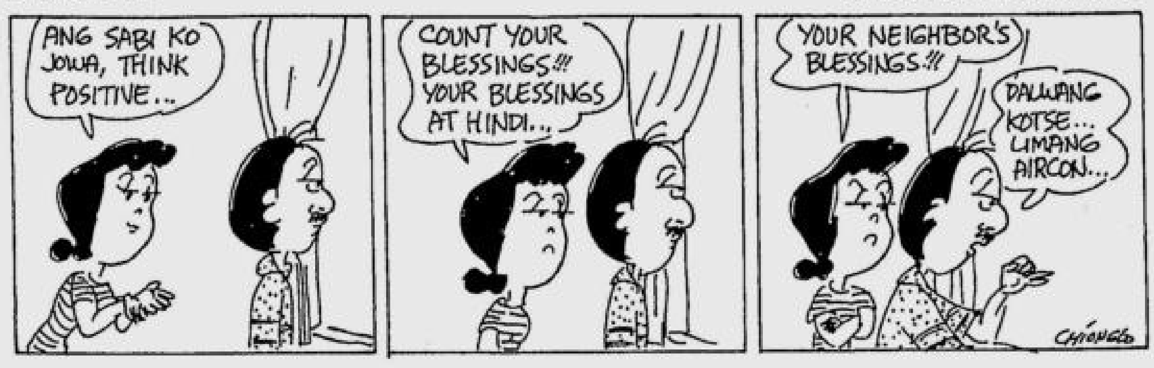
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


STOP!
SHTINKY- YOU'RE EITHER HIDING UNDER THE COVERS...
...OR OUT CAMPAIGN-ING.
I KNOW...
I LIVE A VERY BALANCED LIFE.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
7-15

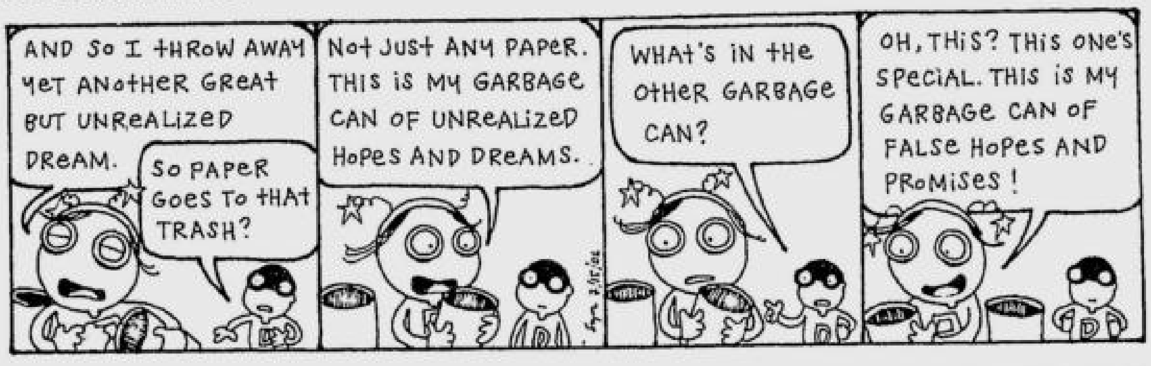
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SABI KO JOWA, THINK POSITIVE...
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!!! YOUR BLESSINGS AT HINDI...
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BLESSINGS!!!
DALAWANG KOTSE... LIMANG AIRCON...
CHIONGLO

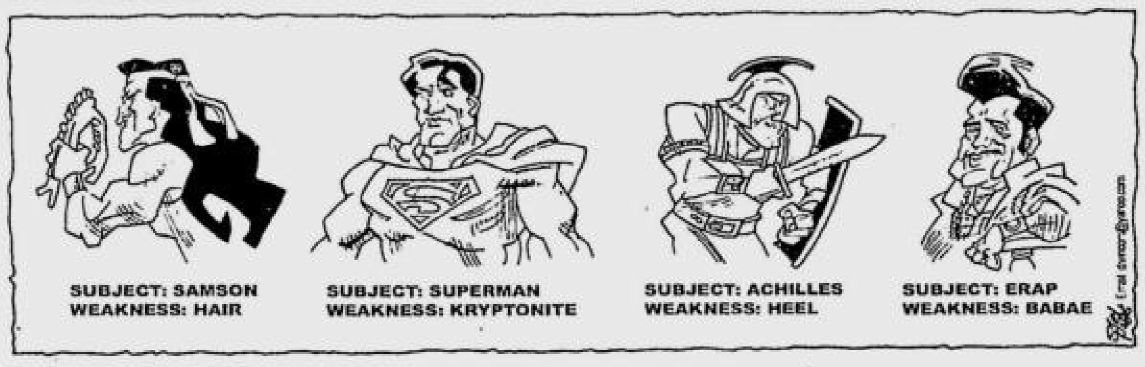
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND SO I THROW AWAY YET ANOTHER GREAT BUT UNREALIZED DREAM.
SO PAPER GOES TO THAT TRASH?
NOT JUST ANY PAPER. THIS IS MY GARBAGE CAN OF UNREALIZED HOPES AND DREAMS.
WHAT'S IN THE OTHER GARBAGE CAN?
OH, THIS? THIS ONE'S SPECIAL. THIS IS MY GARBAGE CAN OF FALSE HOPES AND PROMISES!

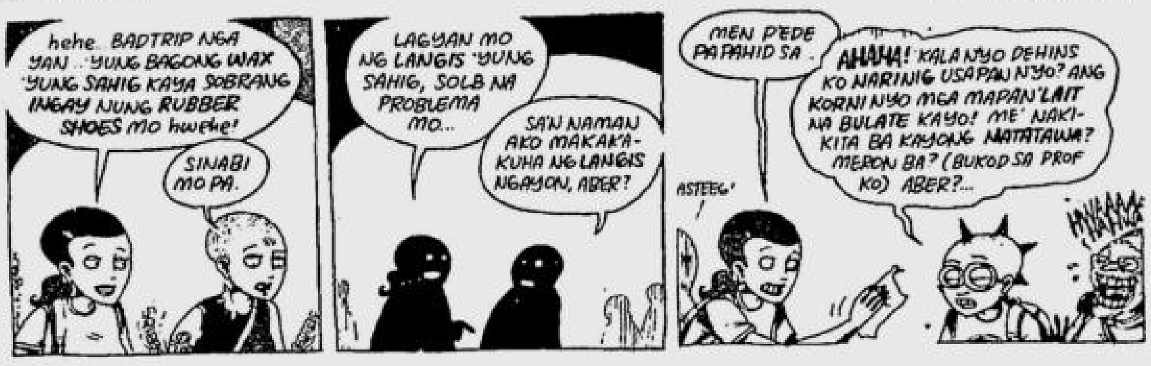
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SUBJECT: SAMSON
WEAKNESS: HAIR
SUBJECT: SUPERMAN
WEAKNESS: KRYPTONITE
SUBJECT: ACHILLES
WEAKNESS: HEEL
SUBJECT: ERAP
WEAKNESS: BABAE

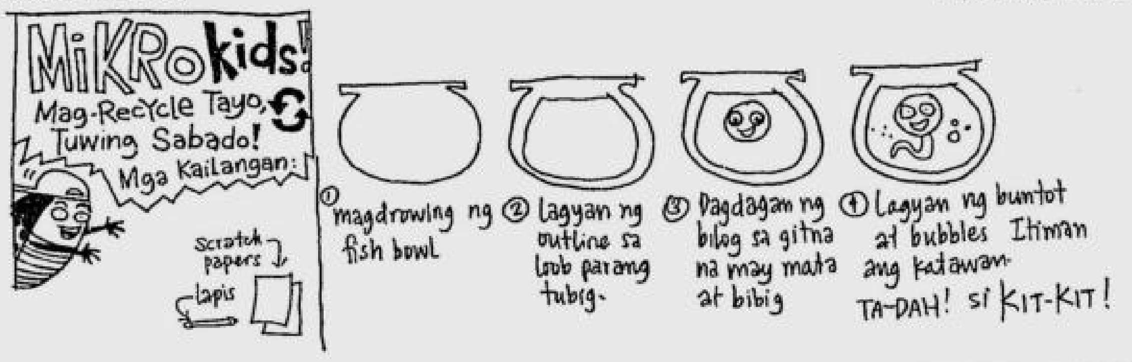
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe. BADTRIP NGA YAN .. 'YUNG BAGONG WAX 'YUNG SAHIG KAYA SOBRANG INGAY NUNG RUBBER SHOES mo hwehe!
SINABI MO PA.
LAGYAN MO NG LANGIS 'YUNG SAHIG, SOLB NA PROBLEMA MO...
SA'N NAMAN AKO MAKAKA-KUHA NG LANGIS NGAYON, ABER?
MEN P'EDE PAPAHID SA..
AHAHA! KALA NYO DEHINS KO NARINIG USAPAN N'YO? ANG KORNI NYO MGA MAPAN'LAIT NA BULATE KAYO! ME' NAKI-KITA BA KAYONG NATATAWA? MERON BA? (BUKOD SA PROF KO) ABER?...
ASTEEG'
HWAAAA

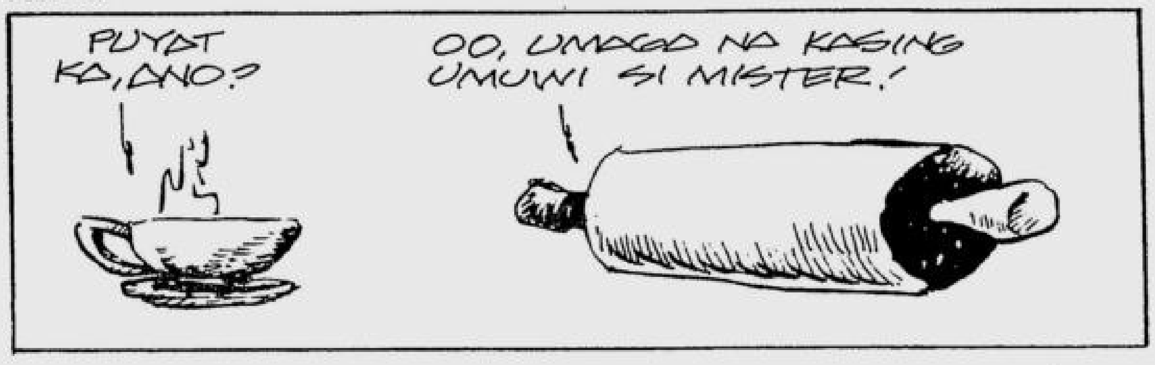
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
Scratch papers
lapis
① magdrowing ng fish bowl
② lagyan ng outline sa loob parang tubig.
③ Dagdagan ng bilog sa gitna na may mata at bibig
④ Lagyan ng buntot at bubbles Itiman ang katawan.
TA-DAH! si KIT-KIT!

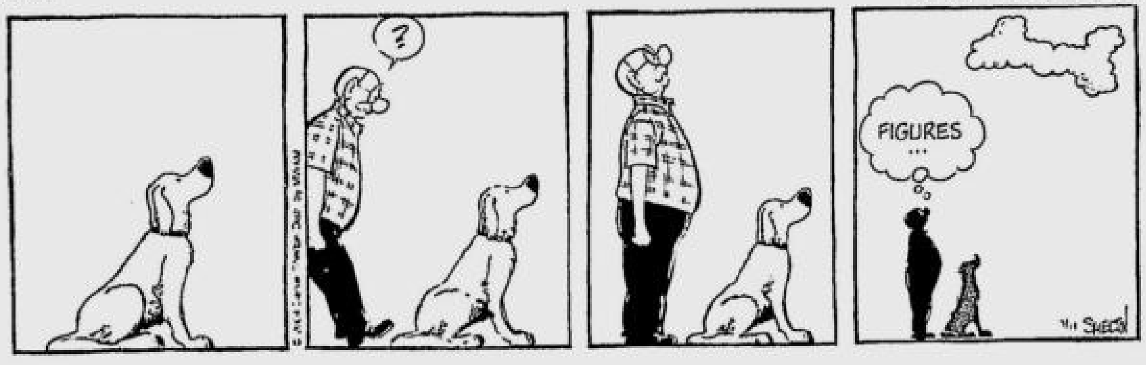
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

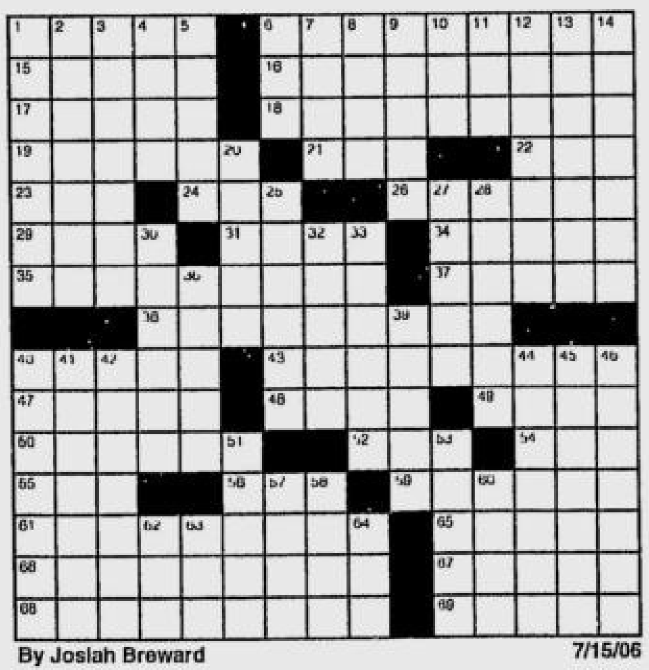

PUYAT KA, ANO?
OO, UMAGA NA KASING UMUWI SI MISTER!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

7/15/06

ACROSS
1 Odds breaker
6 Auckland-to-Melbourne crossing
15 Funny-car fuel
16 False pretenses
17 __ de Guerre
18 Send into seclusion
19 Singer Kazan
21 Amtrak, et al.
22 Ms. Thurman
23 N. Mandela's party
24 Compass dir.
26 __ de corps
29 Pretense
31 Big band tote
34 Packing case
35 Chatted idly
37 Miffed
38 "Lost Boys" co-star
40 Circumvent
43 Conductor Otto
47 Of an arm bone
48 Dynamic start?
49 Audition tape
50 Be appropriate for
52 Tarzan on TV
54 Bad: pref.
55 Part of a min.
56 Tummy muscles
59 Writer Welty
61 Ladylove
65 Part of RFD
66 Gerard of "Green Card"
67 Peevish
68 Strenuous efforts
69 "Skittle Players" painter

DOWN
1 Release one's grip
2 Fearsome fish
3 Impassive
4 Gray or Moran
5 Poisonous compound
6 "__ the wind and nothing more"
7 Part of OAS
8 Roman acronym
9 Computer clicker
10 NASD competitor
11 PMs
12 Of stitches
13 Religious recluse
14 Added bubbles to
20 Be admitted
25 Archimedes' cry from the bathtub
27 Temporary currency
28 Put on a first coat
30 Gordon of "Oklahoma!"
32 Stendhal's last name
33 Stick fast
36 A __ santel
39 Soap plant
40 Settle down
41 Trademark facial tissue
42 The essence of something
44 Moral anguish
45 UAE part
46 Nobel Prize winner Yalow
51 __ Gras
53 Mongolian tents
57 "Joanie Loves Chachi" star
58 "Nana" star Anna
60 Twosome
62 Besmirch
63 Table scrap
64 Cont. Down Under

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	O	B	■	S	S	N	■	■	P	R	A	Y
O	R	A	T	E	■	A	L	A	■	W	R	I	T	E
S	O	N	O	F	A	G	U	N	■	H	A	D	E	S
M	A	K	E	O	V	E	R	U	S	E	D	■	■	■
O	R	S	■	R	E	S	■	■	T	E	A	S	E	T
■	■	■	A	E	S	■	S	A	U	L	■	I	D	A
A	E	T	N	A	■	S	P	I	R	O	■	L	E	S
B	R	A	I	N	S	T	O	R	M	F	R	O	N	T
A	R	M	■	D	E	E	D	S	■	F	U	S	S	Y
C	E	E	■	A	N	T	E	■	V	O	N	■	■	■
A	D	R	I	F	T	■	■	G	A	R	■	T	U	E
■	■	■	S	T	A	R	D	U	S	T	P	A	N	S
M	A	P	L	E	■	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	I	T
E	D	G	A	R	■	M	O	C	■	N	A	B	O	O
L	O	A	M	■	■	S	R	I	■	E	T	O	N	S

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7/15/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the ability to inspire others, whether you know it or not. People admire you and want to emulate you. (They even give you gifts.) Because of this, what you say or do is important. You have influence over others. You always enjoy an appreciation of the arts. This year you will have to make an important choice.
Birthdate of: Rembrandt Van Rijn, artist; Linda Ronstadt, singer; Lolita Davidovich, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You find it so easy to turn the charm on today that everyone will enjoy your company. Talk to siblings and relatives. Acknowledge the love that surrounds you in your daily life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might want to splurge on something beautiful today. If so, shop in the morning, but not in the afternoon. (Or wait until Sunday.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a wonderful day for parties, social events and good times with others. You're in top form! Whatever you do today, you'll express yourself with vibrant energy.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today. You want to work behind the scenes, or you just want to kick back and relax in your own private reverie.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Great day to schmooze with friends and groups! In particular, you'll enjoy the company of creative, artistic people. Discuss your long-term goals for the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): For whatever reason, some people regard you with envy today. It looks to others like you have it good. Perhaps bosses and VIPs favor you now? Enjoy your good fortune.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Plan to do something different and exciting that offers you a learning experience. Travel anywhere today if you can. Visit libraries, bookstores, museums and galleries. Talk to people from other cultures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Keep your pockets open. You can definitely benefit from the wealth of others today. Expect favors, gifts and goodies!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with friends and partners are warm and energetic today. Good feelings are bouncing back and forth. Avoid important decisions in the afternoon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a pleasant day to putter around and take care of errands and tasks, especially matters related to small pets or personal hygiene. Avoid major purchases in the afternoon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's party city today! You're in a good mood. It's not a perfect day, but then, does such a thing exist? Work with what you've got. Enjoy sports, movies, the theater, playful activities with children and romance!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll enjoy making where you live look more beautiful today. This is also a great day to entertain at home. Invite the gang over. Show them you care.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		6	4					
	2			1			9	
		4	8			3		1
						7		6
	1						8	
8		7						
6		8			3	5		
	5			2			1	
					7	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

7/15

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	5	2	1	4	3	6	7
4	3	2	5	6	7	1	9	8
7	6	1	8	9	3	2	4	5
9	1	7	6	2	8	5	3	4
3	2	4	7	5	9	6	8	1
5	8	6	4	3	1	7	2	9
6	5	9	1	8	2	4	7	3
1	7	3	9	4	6	8	5	2
2	4	8	3	7	5	9	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Let the rude times roll?

From page G1

shifted my eyes away from their pokerface gaze, I spotted a stack of Reader's Digests at the far end of the stand. Call it a cosmic coincidence or whatever—I mean, Reader's Digest isn't exactly cool and stuff—but the headline read: "How Polite Are We?" To klepto a quote from Scooby Doo's best bud Shaggy, "Like, zoiks!"

Undercover brothers

A quick Google search revealed that the article was a "unique test to see how helpful and polite people are around the world." The Reader's Digest editors sent undercover researchers—both men and women—in 35 countries to conduct three tests on citizens of their hugest cities. They walked into public buildings to see if people would hold the door open, bought small items and recorded whether the sales assistants said thank you, and dropped a folder full of papers to see if anyone would help pick them up. All were done 20 times in as many busy locations.

Explaining the fairly unusual methods, the report went on to say this: "To allow us to compare cities, we awarded one point for each positive outcome and nothing for a negative one, giving each city a maximum score of 60." The editors admitted they "did not attempt a strict scientific survey" and instead set off to conduct "the world's biggest real-life test of common courtesy, with more than 2,000 tests of actual behavior."

And how did they rate Manila's manners? Simply put, it was gnarly.

Disturbing behavior

Out of 36 participating cities, Manila ranked 22nd in terms of politeness, same as Helsinki, Finland, which racked up 48 points. The top three were New York, Zurich, and Toronto. Mumbai, India was deemed the rudest place, finishing dead last with only 32 points. Oddly enough, Asia was the region that most consistently lacked courtesy. "Eight out of nine cities there finished in the bottom 11," states the investigation.

New York's primo spot on the list has already raised not a few eyebrows, something the essay actually anticipated. Former Mayor Ed Koch reacted to the results by citing the effects of the 2001 terrorist attacks. He pointed out, "After 9/11, New Yorkers [have become] more caring. They understand the shortness of life."

That said, what the eff happened—or better yet, didn't happen—in Manila?

Pinoy big bother

After the supposed test, Reader's Digest pollsters in Manila let a respondent in on the project. "How can we measure someone's value simply by whether they hold a door open?" questioned a 19-year-old student named John Christopher Padilla. My answer: because etiquette should be as basic to all civilized human beings as breathing.

I've lived in or been to several countries across the globe already. And every time I come into contact with new people, I try to adopt their positive characteristics and bring them wherever I may go next. In the US and Canada, for example, I got so used to sales attendants, wait staff, and complete strangers—even bums, some of whom were surprisingly eloquent—initiating small talk or at least a "Hi, how's it going?" (This is true in the West coast and even, as the study showed, in New York City.)

In cities dotting Latin America, Western Europe, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, I was amazed at how polite most of the locals were, greeting me with a friendly nod or even asking me where I got my shoes. It may be trivial but it reveals a lot about how urbane they are.

Meanwhile, I always get disappointed when I try the international nice guy approach in Manila—i.e., genuinely smiling, always saying "please" and "thank you," letting people go ahead in line, and yes, even holding doors open for others—because all I get in return are antagonistic dagger looks. Why do Manila peeps always feel that somebody's out to get them?

Beyond holding doors open

The same inquiry quoted Charles Mosley, editor at British etiquette publisher Debrett's, who explained the seeming lack of grumpiness in industrialized areas: "Wealthier cities aren't generally as crowded, and competition for resources is less intense." True, eh?

In fact, when asked to rationalize his bad behavior, a 31-year-old sales assistant in Mumbai unapologetically told a Reader's Digest correspondent, "I am not an educated guy. I hand goods over to the customers, and that's it."

In most cases, it seems that educational attainment is proportional to etiquette, which is related to self-discipline. Bringing the discussion back to Manila, the lack of education could explain why, for instance, no one follows traffic regulations. Or why crabby department store cashiers balk at the sight of a P500 bill before demanding for something smaller. Or why Filipino overseas workers unbuckle their seatbelts while the fasten seatbelt sign is on and the plane is still taxiing. Or why it's all *tulakan*, *unahan*, and *pabilisan*, which is sad.

Something to smile about

To contrast from the pessimism, it's awesome to note that British think tank New Economics Foundation (NEF) has recently ranked the Philippines 17th in the Happy Planet Index. This study "measures quality of life against environmental impact" and "strips the view of the economy back to its absolute basics: what we put in and what comes out," according to reports from AFP and Reuters.

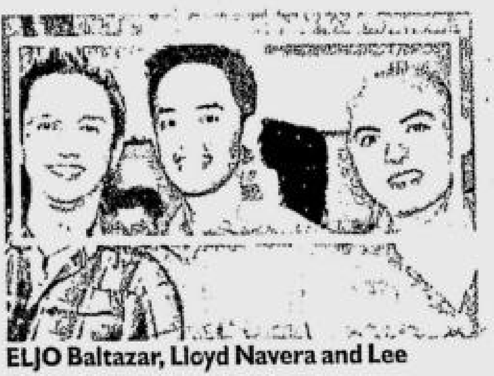
This time, Asian nations did better, with Vietnam placing highest at No. 12, followed by Sri Lanka (15) and the Philippines (17). Interestingly enough, some of the G8 nations that scored well in the Reader's Digest politeness survey didn't make it to the top 50 of the Happy Planet Index. Canada was 111th and the United States was number 150. Hmmm…

The dissimilar findings of both studies should offer substantial insights on our behavior as Pinoys. Pulling one last idea from the global courtesy test, "Lynne Truss, in her international bestseller 'Talk to the Hand,' claims that we live in 'an age of lazy moral relativism combined with aggressive social insolence' where common courtesies are 'practically extinct.'" Being polite—or even being happy—isn't something we aim for because a couple of surveys said we should be so. Rather, being courteous is important because, plain and simple, it's the right thing to do.

NBC'S COO Marco Borlongon and Ana Cayabyab

NBC's CEO Francis Lumen with Freddie Garcia and Ray Espinosa

Froth Of July parties like its the nineties


ELJO Baltazar, Lloyd Navera and Lee Calanog

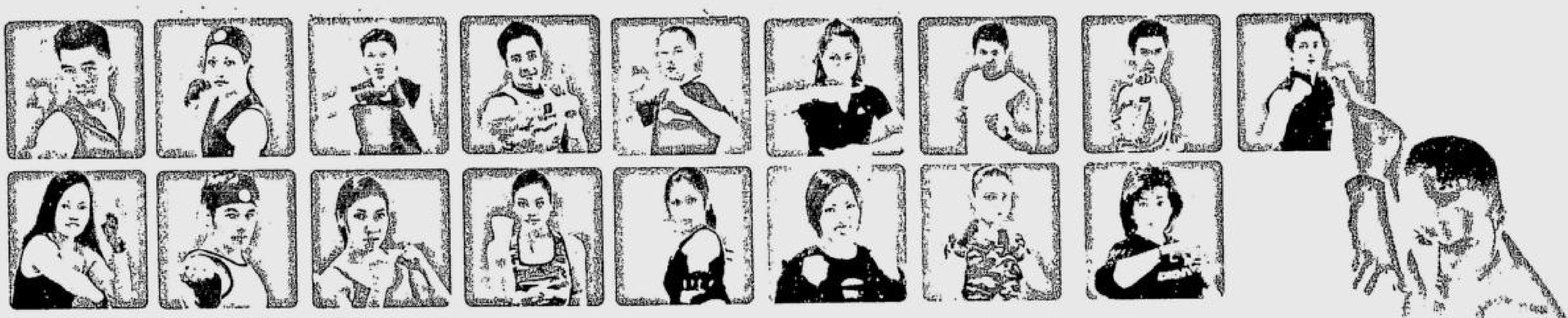
PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999!

Here's the 411: 92.3 Joey, along with Colt Ice, Nescafe, Isuzu, Hope and the New Caltex with Techron, recently threw a phat Fourth of July shindig at the NBC Tent! Nostalgia hounds headed back to the 1990s during Joey's annual Froth of July: The state of the nineties party. Meanwhile, Häagen-Dazs, Ice Monster, Fruit Magic, De Original Jamaican Pattie Shop, Jack's, Jill's, Taco Ilocano, Jack Daniels, Jägermeister, Mantou, Zagu and Salt N' Pepper Restaurant made attendees see fireworks by serving up an absolutely-free, eat-all-you-can spread that no Independence Day shebang could possibly do without. Rivaling the incredible grub were the incredible giveaways and promos from Closeup, Picture Card, the Manila Bulletin, Metro Magazine, the Philippine Star, and Time Depot and Nautica. And as if those eats and treats weren't enough, Joey decided to take things up a notch, turning the night into a real celebration by giving out a couple of tickets to the USA! One guest hailed the party—in classic nineties-speak—as "da bomb." 'Nuff said.

NBC's Ria Romero and Jett Carpio

AIMEE Marcos

NBC's Carlo Ocampo and wife Antoinette



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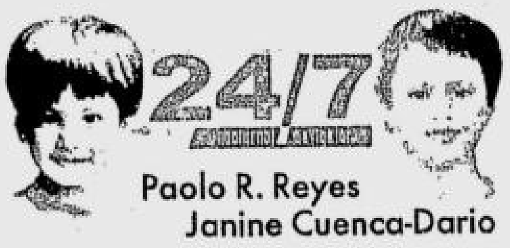
Keep on Spinning



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

FOR THE PLEASURE-SEEKING TWENtysomething, it's easy to get sucked into the heady swirl of the after-hours scene. Apart from staying up till the wee hours of the morning watching the recently concluded FIFA World Cup final (Viva Italia!) including Zidane's infamous Materazzi headbutt, wrestling with quarter life crisis quandaries and the occasional mid-day crunch at the office, their days and nights are driven by a relentless pursuit of fun and carefree adventures.

But for 25-year-old Benjo Marquez, one of our town's trailblazing and most promising young DJs, life in the past few months has been a courageous battle with the Big C. Since being diagnosed with Stage 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes) last May, supportive friends have organized a series of fundraising parties to help shoulder the costly expenses for his chemotherapy sessions and extensive medical treatments.

Following in the footsteps of Luce's "Keep on Spinning" party and the "Smashing Hodgkins" concerts at 6Underground and Xaymaca, comes "Remission is Possible: A Benefit Bar Tour for Benjo Marquez."

On Thursday, July 20, join an all-star cast of DJs—Erwin Edralin, Owens Sun, Manolet Dario, Chuppy Celdran, Roman Mojica, Cao Ocampo, Mars Miranda, Raji Mata, and Marie Garcia—as they cook up a skinny rumble at the Embassy Super Club in support of a friend and fellow turntablist. The proceeds will also serve to support Carewell Community (carewellcommunity.org), a nonprofit foundation for cancer-stricken Filipinos.

Another fundraiser gig in the works is a Charity Poker Tournament slated for August 12 at the Casino Filipino. For a minimal buy-in fee of P2,000, players will be treated to free-flowing food and drinks, as well as a chance to win a brand new poker table and an overnight stay in Seawind Boracay. Call 0917-5298837.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

July 15, Saturday

Behrouz: The Sound of San Francisco Underground at Embassy Club; Sugarfree, Cambio, Greyhoundz & Happy Meals at Saguijo; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Bamboo at Metro Bar, West Avenue; Bringin' Back the Bounce w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Mati; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; House Groovin' at Mezze; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; The Weekender w/ DJs Cao Ocampo, Paolo Maralit & Marie Garcia at Jill's; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Wham Bam at Government; Soulistic at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Souled Out band at Streetscape Shangri-La Plaza; Girl Valencia at Conspiracy Café

July 16, Sunday

The Virgin Labfest at CCP; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza); Through the Palette's Eye exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Architecture + Ecology exhibit at Goethe-Institut Manila

July 17, Monday

Cinemalaya Film Festival opening at CCP; Hiraya at Mag:net Café; FunkWhatyaHeard at Absinth; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Bonfire Fairytales at Conspiracy Cafe; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

July 18, Tuesday

Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Angulo, Chicosci, Kala, Deliquentres, Urbandub, Sandwich, Greyhoundz, Neruda, & Teardrop at Saguijo; Two Rooms w/ Stephen Ku at Citrus; Panic w/ DJs Alessandra Tinio at Zen; Sex & The City Ladies Night at Mezze; Sparkle: Nu Jazz at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Sitti at Tavern on the Square; Writer's Night at Conspiracy Café; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

July 19, Wednesday

Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Smooth Wednesdays w/ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Spy, Rinka, Kala, and Alak Pa at Saguijo; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy Café; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Rockin' Revival at Conway's Bar

July 20, Thursday

Remission is Possible: Benjo Marquez Benefit w/ DJs Marie Garcia, Erwin Edralin, Owens Sun, Manolet Dario, Chuppy Cedran, Roman Mojica, Cao Ocampo, Mars Miranda, & Raji Mata at Embassy Club; Coup at Fiamma; Reggae Night at 6Underground; Jammin' Reggae w/ Brownman Revival at Conspiracy Café; BBC's DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; Dongabay at Mag:net Café; GottaHaveHouse! at Capone's; Nuvo Soul w/ DJ Elian at Nuvo; Boldstar, Bitter pill, & Chicosci at Saguijo; Liquor Spill at Citrus; G Lounge at Mezze; Latina Thursdays at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; Bloomfields at Arruba

July 21, Friday

Parokya ni Edgar at Casino Filipino; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; The Ambassadors, Rampqueen, Angulo, Neruda, Lysosome, Hilera, & Typecast at Saguijo; Got House! at Mezze; Tribe-ulence Fridays at Absinth; The Blue Room w/ DJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzurro Linden Suites; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy Café; Style Fridays w/ Steve Mills at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; Disco Mania at MDC Greenhills; House-Beats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Liquified Orange at Streetscape Shangri-La Plaza

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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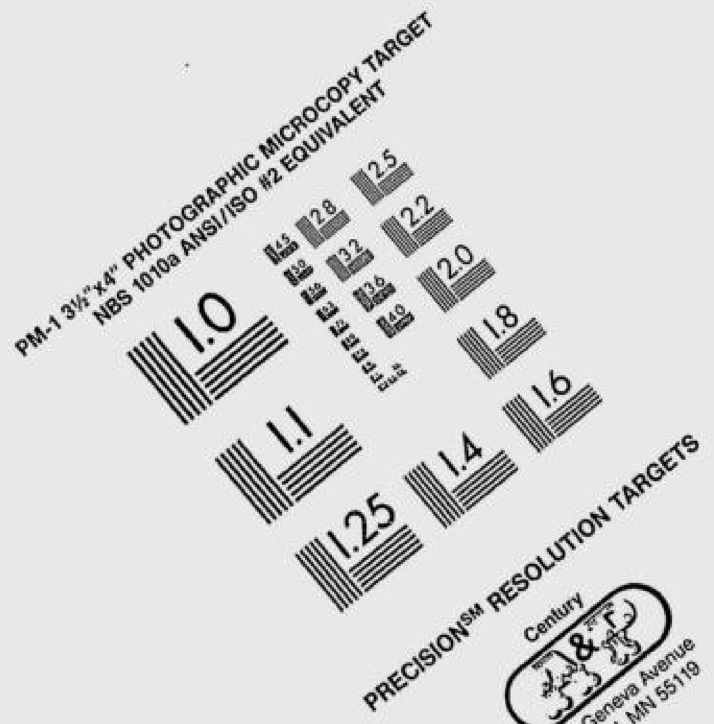
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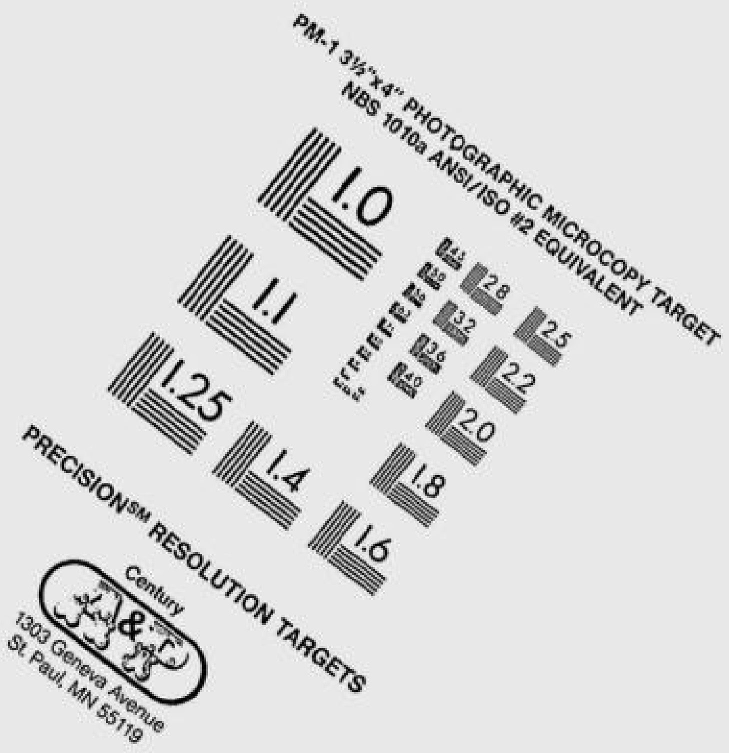
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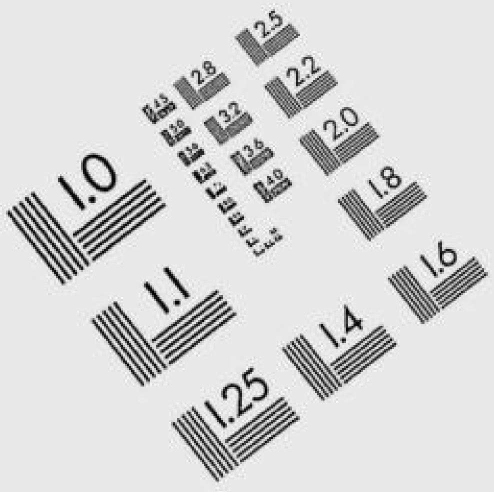
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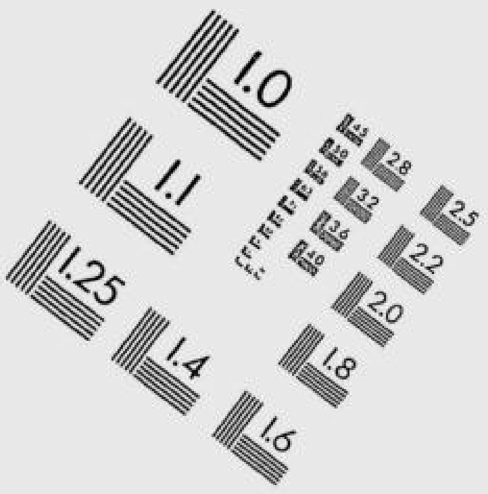
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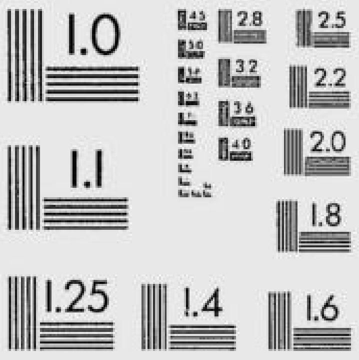
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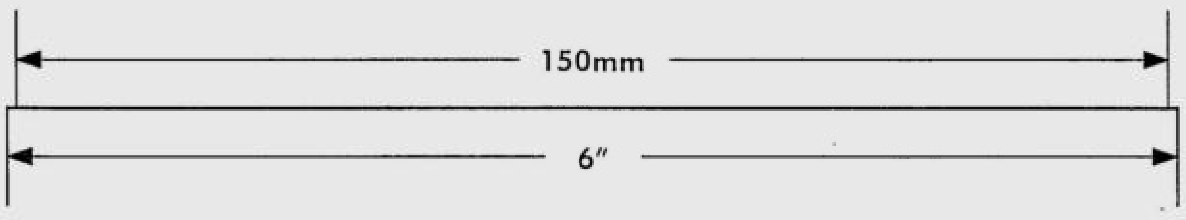

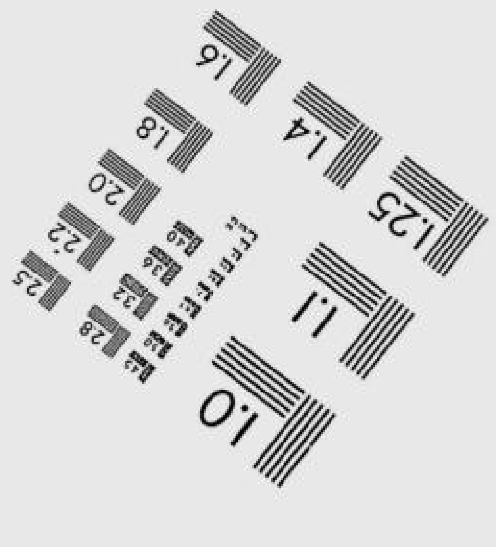
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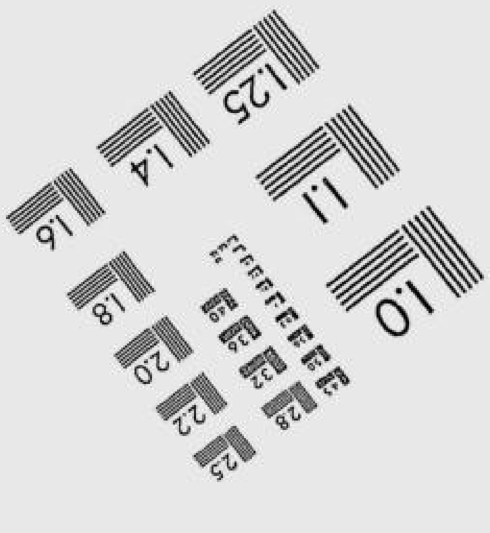
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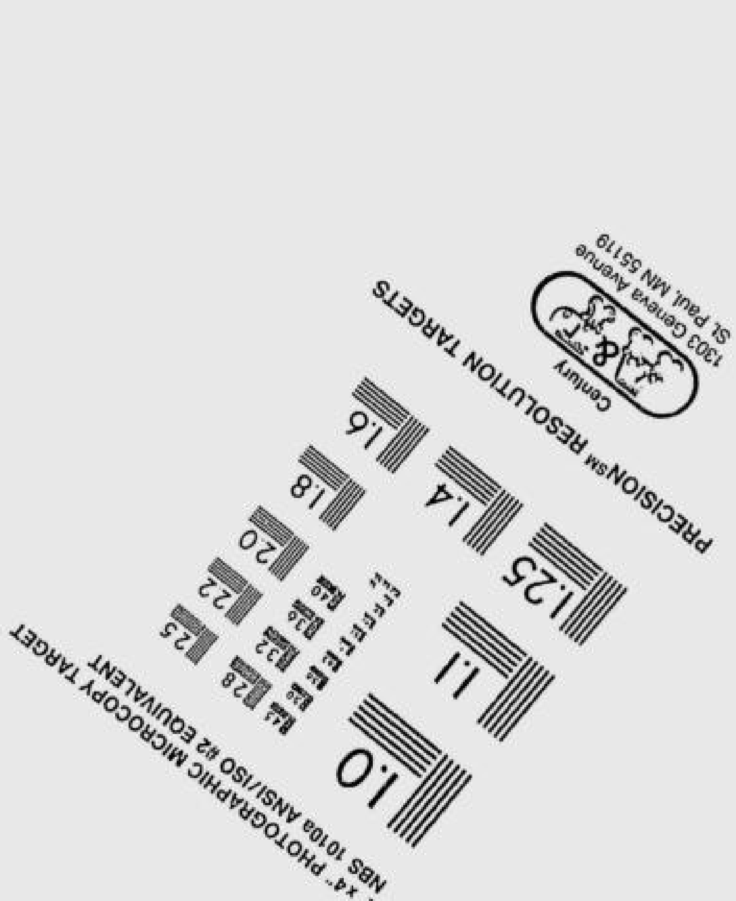
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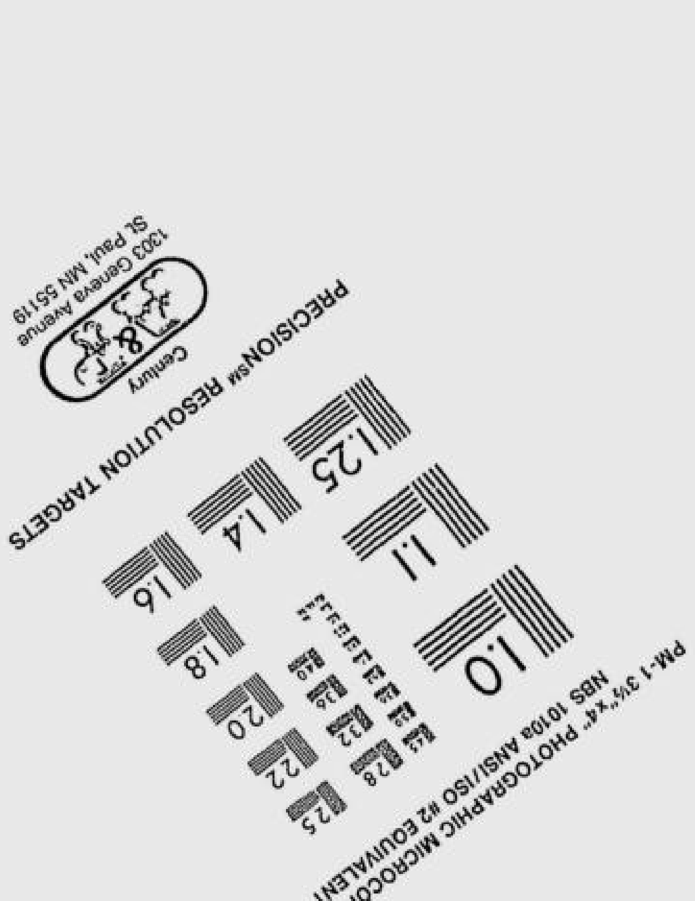
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